

New Birds from Brazil

By

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Identification of the collection of birds gathered by the recent South American Expedition of the Colorado Museum of Natural History reveals some interesting records.

One species and two subspecies are apparently new to science, and another species is apparently unrecorded from Brazil. Mr. J. D. Figgins, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, has courteously requested me to publish the results of this examination and to describe the new birds. To Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Mr. John T. Zimmer, of the American Museum of Natural History, the writer's thanks are due for the loan of specimens.

A specimen of the hawk known as *Accipiter guttifer* Hellmayr is the first record for the province of Matto Grosso, and seemingly also for all of Brazil. It is an adult female, No. 12192, Colorado Museum of Natural History, and was taken on December 24, 1925, at Descalvados, Brazil. It is apparently a typical specimen in adult plumage.

The new birds are described below.

Uropelia campestris figginsi, subsp. nov.¹

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Uropelia campestris campestris*² from Bahia, but paler, less rufescent (more grayish) above; anterior lower parts paler, more grayish (less vinaceous).

Description.—Type, adult female, No. 12193, Colorado Museum of Natural History; Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil; November 6, 1925; Fred G. Brandenburg and F. E. D'Amour. Forehead light neutral gray; sinciput between neutral gray and dark gull gray; rest of upper surface buffy brown, a little darker on the back (dull cinnamon brown in *Uropelia campestris campestris*); primaries light fuscous, margined exteriorly with the color of the back, and on median portion narrowly edged with buffy white; secondaries hair brown, narrowly edged on outer webs terminally with creamy white; tertials dark buffy brown, with a roundish black spot on innermost; superior wing-coverts like the back but paler, two of the inner feathers of the median, and one of the greater, coverts marked with a conspicuous speculum composed of a metallic violet or royal purple spot, bordered distally by a black bar, and this by a white bar; middle pair of tail-feathers between buffy brown and olive brown; other middle rectrices olive brown basally, brownish black terminally, with buffy spot at tip; rest of tail black, broadly but diagonally tipped with white; subocular region pale neutral gray, this also tinging the postocular area; auriculars, sides of neck, and anterior lower surface rather pinkish ecru drab, shading

¹Named for Mr. J. D. Figgins, in recognition of his many courtesies.

²*Columbina campestris* Spix, Avium Species Novae, Vol. II, 1825, p. 57, Pl. LXXV, Fig. 2 ("in campis Bahiae").

on sides of neck into the color of the back, on the chin to white, and posteriorly to dull white washed with pale drab gray, particularly on sides and flanks; crissum pure white; lining of wing black to brownish black, with a large white spot on the posterior coverts which is continuous with a large white area covering the inner webs of the basal portion of the secondaries and inner primaries.

Measurements.—Adult female (type). Wing, 70 mm.; tail, 82; exposed culmen, 9.5; tarsus, 16.5.

Geographic distribution.—Matto Grosso, Brazil.

Remarks.—The three specimens (one male and two females) from Matto Grosso, obtained by the Colorado Museum Expedition so clearly differ from a pair of birds from Rio Preto, Bahia, Brazil, which are practically typical *Uropelia campestris campestris*, that they evidently represent an undescribed form from the interior. This new race of a relatively rare species is apparently of the same size as the typical form from eastern Brazil. A female from Bahia measures: wing, 67.5 mm.; tail, 85; exposed culmen, 10; tarsus, 15.

Picumnus arileucus, sp. nov.

Specific characters.—Similar to *Picumnus guttifer* Sundevall, but much smaller; upper parts paler, more grayish (less rufescent); lower surface more extensively whitish, due to the reduction of black markings, which are mostly in the form of squamate edgings with very little black elsewhere on the feathers.

Description.—Type, adult female, No. 12194, Colorado Museum of Natural History; Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil; January 9, 1926; Fred G. Brandenburg and F. E. D'Amour. Pileum and cervix black, nearly every feather with a round apical white dot; remaining upper surface light hair brown (between cinnamon brown and dresden brown in *Picumnus guttifer*) anteriorly dotted with dull white, and on rump and upper tail-coverts barred with dull vinaceous buff; tail brownish black, the inner webs of middle-pair of rectrices, with most of the outer webs of the two outermost pairs, and also the subterminal portion of the inner webs of the latter, white; wings rather light fuscous, lightest on the tertials; the outer margins of primaries and upper wing-coverts paler, the tertials and inner secondaries edged with cartridge buff, the wing-coverts with a few small buffy and dull white spots; a narrow superciliary stripe white; lores and narial bristles dull brownish; sides of head and neck dull white, mottled with brownish black; auriculars bister; lower surface dull white, the feathers of throat and breast with squamate edgings of dull black, and a few basal shaft markings and imperfect bars of the same color, the abdomen with a few small dusky spots and streaks, the sides and flanks with obscure blackish bars; lining of wing and basal edgings of inner webs of secondaries, light buff.

Measurements.—Male.³ Wing, 52-53 (average, 52.5) mm.; tail, 31-31.5 (31.3); exposed culmen, 11; tarsus, 12-13 (12.5). Female.⁴ Wing, 49-53 (51); tail, 29-32 (30.4); exposed culmen, 10-11 (10.4); tarsus, 11-13 (11.8).

Geographic distribution.—Matto Grosso, Brazil.

Remarks.—This most interesting new species, while superficially so much resembling *Picumnus guttifer* that it has been identified as such, is recognizable at a glance

³Two specimens, from Matto Grosso, Brazil.

⁴Ten specimens, from Matto Grosso, Brazil.

by the characters above given. Size is apparently an almost infallible guide, since no specimen of *Picumnus arileucus* examined has a wing-length greater than 53 mm., and the smallest specimen of *Picumnus guttifer* measures 54 mm. Measurements of *Picumnus guttifer* are as follows:

Male.⁵ Wing, 54-58.5 (average, 56) mm.; tail, 31.5-36 (33.5); exposed culmen, 11.8-13.3 (12.5); tarsus, 12-14.5 (13.3). Female.⁶ Wing, 54-56.5 (55.1); tail, 32-36 (33.8); exposed culmen, 11-13 (12); tarsus, 12-14 (12.8).

The black markings on the lower surface of *Picumnus arileucus* are in most cases confined to squamate edgings, anteriorly as well as posteriorly, and to narrow bars, streaks, and spots on the sides, flanks, and even abdomen. Some specimens are very whitish below, with squamate and other black markings reduced to a minimum, although some have anteriorly a few black shaft markings, mostly basal, which occasionally spread into narrow bars. The lower parts are never, however, so heavily or so uniformly black marked as is the case in *Picumnus guttifer*. The type specimen is one of the specimens less heavily marked on the lower surface. A few of the specimens of this new species have a slight buffy suffusion on the posterior lower surface, but this is hardly to be regarded as more than individual.

In color above, this new bird from Matto Grosso is similar to *Picumnus cirrhatus pilcomayensis* from Argentina and Paraguay, but the former has no white bars on the back, and lacks the conspicuous heavy black barring on the lower parts. In general shade of ground color above it is very close to *Picumnus jelskii* from Peru, but it has much more distinct light spots, some of which are white instead of being all dull buff; and on the lower parts it lacks anteriorly almost entirely the black bars and broad shaft streaks of *Picumnus jelskii*.

In differentiating this new species we have had available twelve specimens of *Picumnus arileucus* and thirty-two specimens of *Picumnus guttifer*, the latter including birds from the States of Matto Grosso and São Paulo, Brazil. All of the former, excepting the three obtained by the Expedition of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, are in the American Museum of Natural History.

Without much doubt, all the synonyms that have been commonly referred to *Picumnus guttifer* belong under that species as now restricted, since apparently none of them were based on this new species, which appears to be confined to the State of Matto Grosso, Brazil. Doctor Hellmayr was apparently right in referring to *Picumnus guttifer*, the *Picumnus sagittatus* var. *Sharpei* of von Ihering,⁷ and also *Picumnus caipira* von Ihering.⁸ Certainly *Picumnus guttifer* Sundevall⁹ and *Picumnus sagittatus* Sundevall¹⁰ are referable to the large species, as the measurements given by Sundevall prove.

Detailed measurements of the specimens of *Picumnus arileucus* are as follows:

⁵Thirteen specimens, from Brazil.

⁶Twelve specimens, from Brazil.

⁷Revista Museu Paulista, Vol. V, 1902, p. 279 ("Rincão perto de [sic] Jaboticabal; Baurú").

⁸Revista Museu Paulista, Vol. V, 1902, p. 280 ("Victoria, perto de Botucatu").

⁹Conspectus Picinarum, 1866, p. 101 ("Goyaz").

¹⁰Conspectus Picinarum, 1866, p. 103 ("Rio Tocantins").

Measurements of specimens of *Picumnus arileucus*.

Museum and No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus
149483 A.M.N.H.	♂	Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 5, 1916	G. K. Cherrie	52	31	11	12
127524 A.M.N.H.	♂	San Lorenzo River, between its mouth and mouth of Cuyabá River, Brazil	Dec. 31, 1914	G. K. Cherrie	53	31.5	11	13
Average of two males					52.5	31.3	11	12.5
12194 Colo.M.N.H.	♀	Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil ¹	Jan. 9, 1926	F. G. Brandenburg and F. E. D'Amour	52	32	11	13
12195 Colo.M.N.H.	♀	Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 26, 1925	F. G. Brandenburg and F. E. D'Amour	52.5	10.8
12196 Colo.M.N.H.	♀	Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil	July 16, 1928	J. D. Figgings and F. W. Miller	53	31	10	12.5
149482 A.M.N.H.	♀	Agua Blanca de Corumbá, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Nov. 7, 1916	G. K. Cherrie	50.5	29	10	11
149484 A.M.N.H.	♀	Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 15, 1916	G. K. Cherrie	49	29	10.5	11.5
127523 A.M.N.H.	♀	San Juan Ranch, Cuyabá River, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 28, 1913	G. K. Cherrie	52	31.5	11	12
127527 A.M.N.H.	♀	Urucum near Corumbá, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 13, 1913	G. K. Cherrie	50.5	31.5	11	11
127529 A.M.N.H.	♀	Urucum near Corumbá, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 1, 1913	G. K. Cherrie	50.5	30.5	10	12
127525 A.M.N.H.	♀	Urucum near Corumbá, Matto Grosso, Brazil	G. K. Cherrie	50	29.5	10	11.5
127531 A.M.N.H.	♀	Urucum near Corumbá, Matto Grosso, Brazil	Dec. 21, 1913	G. K. Cherrie	50	30	10	11.5
Average of 10 females					51.0	30.4	10.4	11.8

¹Type.

Sicalis pelzelni danisa, subsp. nov.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Sicalis pelzelni pelzelni* from Argentina and Uruguay, but smaller.

Description.—Type, adult male, No. 12197, Colorado Museum of Natural History; Descalvados, Matto Grosso, Brazil; November 15, 1925; Fred G. Brandenburg and F. E. D'Amour. Forehead cadmium yellow, slightly washed with olivaceous; crown yellowish orange citrine, shading to lemon chrome on the bases of the feathers; remainder of upper surface rather dark sulphine yellow, but brighter, more yellowish on rump and upper tail-coverts, the back and scapular much streaked with black, the centers of the feathers of the upper tail-coverts citrine; wings and tail fuscous, conspicuously edged with sulphine yellow; lower surface, including the lining of wing, rich lemon chrome, verging toward light cadmium on chin, and shaded with sulphine yellow across the jugulum and upper breast and on sides; flanks obscurely streaked with citrine.

Measurements.—Type, adult male. Wing, 65.5 mm.; tail, 50; exposed culmen, 10; tarsus, 17; middle toe without claw, 12. Four males, including the type. Wing, 65-68 (average, 66.6). Two females, wing, 62-64 (63).

Geographic distribution.—Southwestern Brazil and northern Paraguay.

Remarks.—Birds of this species from Matto Grosso, Brazil, are smaller than birds from northern Argentina, southern Paraguay, and Uruguay, the latter having wing measurements of 67.5 to 71.5 mm., with an average of 69. Birds from Puerto Pinasco in northern Paraguay are just as small as birds from Matto Grosso, Brazil, and should be referred to this new race.

Attention has been called by previous authors to the difference in size between northern and southern specimens of *Sycalis pelzelni*, but so far as we are aware, the northern bird has not yet been given a name. Both *Sycalis pelzelni* Clater¹¹ and *Sycalis intermedia* Cabanis¹² are based, of course, on the southern race from Argentina, so that the northern race of the species is the one to receive a new name.

¹¹The Ibis, Ser. 3, Vol. II, No. 5, Jan., 1872, p. 42 ("Cuyaba; Paraguay; vicinity of Buenos Ayres" [type from Buenos Aires. cf. Sharpe, Cat Birds Brit. Mus., Vol. XII, 1888, p. 381]).

¹²Journ. f. Ornith., Jahrg. XXXI, No. 162, April, 1883, p. 216 ("Buenos Ayres und um Cordoba").