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ART. XIX. NEW SOUTH AMERICAN PARROTS

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INTRODUCTION

A study of the Parrots (Family Psittacidae) in the collection of the Carnegie Museum has recently been completed. It shows that we have 1,992 specimens, referable to 203 species and subspecies. Of this total there are 63 forms, represented by 276 specimens, which are from the Old World (mainly Africa and Australasia), and 140 forms and 1,716 specimens are from the New World. In the latter group there are at least six subspecies which appear to be new to science, and which are described and named herewith; one other is described but not named. In order to clarify the relationships of these new races their conspecific relatives have also been discussed from the taxonomic standpoint. In drawing up descriptions the names of colors are in the main those used in Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature." Measurements, where given, are in millimeters, and the length of the bill is that of the chord of the culmen, taken from the cere.

THE RACES OF *PYRRHURA MOLINÆ*.

Salvadori (1891) considered this species to be homogeneous. A southern race (*australis*) was described by the present writer in 1915, and in 1929 Neumann discriminated a northern race under the name *phænicura* of Schlegel. But the problem is not so simple as it would thus appear. The series of specimens in the Carnegie Museum (considerably augmented since 1915) splits up into no less than four geographic variants, two of which appear to be undescribed.

Pyrrhura molinæ molinæ (Massena and Souancé).

Seventeen specimens: Cerro Hosáne, Locotal, San José, and Incachaca, Bolivia.

There is nothing in the original description that might serve to fix the name *molinæ* on the form represented by the above specimens. Comparison with the type-specimen in the British Museum would be desirable in order to settle the matter beyond question. However, the chances favor the type

having come from the highlands of Bolivia rather than from the outlying parts of that country, so I feel fairly safe in assigning our specimens to *P. molinæ molinæ*. The examples from Cerro Hosáne, however, are not so richly colored as those from the Cochabamba region; the difference may be seasonal.

Five males in fresh plumage measure: wing, 133-143; tail, 137-149; culmen from cere, 17-18; tarsus, 15-15.5.

***Pyrrhura molinæ sordida*, subsp. nov.**

Eight specimens: Puerto Suarez, Bolivia.

Type, No. 31,318, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Puerto Suarez, eastern Bolivia, December 17, 1908; José Steinbach.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *P. m. molinæ* of the Bolivian highlands, but somewhat smaller, and general coloration duller; pileum paler brown (olive brown); green area on the sides of the head reduced in extent, and paler (oil green); squamation on the breast indistinct (by reason of the paler centers of the feathers); green of the underparts duller, and the maroon abdominal area paler and less prominent; wings externally paler blue (China blue). Wing (type), 130; tail, 125; culmen from cere, 15; tarsus, 15.

Range.—Southern Matto Grosso, Brazil, to extreme eastern Bolivia.

Remarks.—This bird is apparently the same as that described and figured by Ribeiro, Rev. Mus. Paulista, 12, 1920, 80, pl. 8, fig. 1, except that his figure shows no green color whatever on the sides of the head. Neumann (Nov. Zool., 35, 1929, 217-219) discusses the races of this species, and comments on Ribeiro's paper, but like him he does not venture to name this form, and contents himself with pointing out the application of the name *phænicura* of Schlegel to the bird of northern Matto Grosso. According to Gyldenstolpe (K. Svenska Vet. Handl., 23, No. 1, 1945, 85) *phænicura* differs from both *molinæ* and *australis* "by having the bases of the central rectrices tinged with greenish for about half their basal length." The original description does not mention this feature, and we should like to know whether it is present in Schlegel's type-specimen. The dull coloration of the present race is a marked and constant feature as compared with true *molinæ*. In the latter the wings externally are dusky greenish blue, as they also are in *australis*. The exact range of the new race remains to be worked out, but it is obviously characteristic of the Chaco region of Bolivia, whence it extends into southern Matto Grosso.

***Pyrrhura molinæ restricta*, subsp. nov.**

Four specimens: Palmarito, Bolivia.

Type, No. 80,155, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult female; Palmarito, Rio San Julian, Chiquitos, Bolivia, May 23, 1918; José Steinbach.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *P. m. molinæ*, but green of cheeks tinged with blue; blue collar on hindneck always prominent; pale feather-edgings of throat and breast wider and much paler in color (more soiled white rather than buffy), almost concealing the pale dusky bases of the feathers; maroon abdominal area reduced and duller-colored; flanks and crissum with a strong bluish cast. Wing (type), 136; tail, 136; culmen from cere, 17; tarsus, 14.

Range.—Known only from the type-locality.

Remarks.—Beyond question the four specimens from this locality represent a form different from all the others. Coming as they do from a locality which has already yielded several other novelties, it is no surprise to find that *Pyrrhura molinæ*, which seems to be a plastic species, appears here in a somewhat different guise. The new race is easily separable from true *molinæ* by the characters above specified; from the Puerto Suarez bird (*sordida*) it may at once be distinguished by its deep blue (dusky greenish blue) wings externally, and by the different color of the squamate markings on the breast, which are grayish white, not buffy.

***Pyrrhura molinæ australis* Todd.**

Eight specimens: Rio Bermejo, Argentina, and Yacuiba, Bolivia.

In describing this new race I compared it directly with birds from Puerto Suarez, Bolivia, which I assumed at the time to represent true *molinæ*, but which I am now satisfied belong to a hitherto unrecognized race of this species. The differences between *australis* and birds from the highlands of Bolivia (which in my opinion are far more likely to be true *molinæ*) are not so impressive; although easy to see when the two respective series lie side by side, they are hard to formulate. However, *australis* averages smaller; the maroon abdominal area is more pronounced; the under tail-coverts are greener, less bluish; and the green of the underparts is duller. The pale feather-edgings of the breast are perhaps a little narrower. The race is recognizable on these grounds.

Compared with *sordida*, the present race differs in decidedly deeper general coloration. The pileum and nape are darker-colored (nearer fuscous than sepia); the sides of the head and neck are correspondingly

darker, less buffy, with the pale feather-edgings narrower, giving a more decidedly squamate general effect; the abdomen is more extensively red, and the color is deeper (Pompeian red instead of dragon's blood red); the green of the underparts is also deeper; and the under tail-coverts are scarcely or not tinged with blue.

At first I thought these differences might be due to season and wear, but I am now convinced that the northern Argentina birds represent a valid race, despite Sclater and Hudson's dictum (Argentine Ornithology, 2, 1880, 43) to the contrary. The greater extent of the abdominal red area in the present race is a well-marked feature. In *sordida* this is merely indicated; the feathers are dull red only at their bases, and more or less tipped with yellowish green, while in the present form these tips are scarcely evident, so that the general effect is more "solid"; the color is also deeper.

THE RACES OF PYRRHURA PICTA.

The latest authority (Peters, 1937) recognizes four races of this species, but the first of these, *subandina*, is in my opinion not conspecific with the others. The series studied in this connection, consisting of 86 specimens, falls into five racial groups, each with a definite geographic range and differential characters of its own. These are as follows:

***Pyrrhura picta picta* (Müller).**

Twenty-six specimens: Tamanoir and Pied Saut, French Guiana; Cayari Island, Brazil.

Some variation obtains in this series; it is mostly seasonal. Specimens from Pied Saut, shot in December and January, are in fine fresh plumage; the feathers of the breast are dusky black basally, with broad margins of buffy or soiled white, inclining to rufescent in some cases. Birds shot from April to July are in various stages of wear, as shown by the condition of the rectrices. In one specimen (61,817) the blue color of the fore crown over-spreads the entire pileum. Tail (♂), 109-119 mm.

***Pyrrhura picta orinocensis*, subsp. nov.**

Eight specimens: Rio Yuruan, El Peru Mine, and Altagracia, Venezuela.

Type, No. 34,302, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Altagracia, Venezuela, June 7, 1910; M. A. Carriker, Jr.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Pyrrhura picta picta* of French Guiana, but pileum paler, olive brown (instead of fuscous); throat- and breast-feathers with the pale margins narrower (the squamation thus less pronounced); and tail averaging shorter.

Range.—Venezuela, from the lower Orinoco Valley to the British Guiana frontier.

Remarks.—Birds from this region have always been referred to typical *picta*, from which, however, they are clearly racially distinct, as shown by a comparison in series. The Venezuelan birds were taken from March to June; although they vary somewhat among themselves, they differ as aforesaid from French Guiana birds comparable as to season. The paler, duller color of the pileum is a constant feature; the squamation of the breast is variable. The blue of the forehead averages paler in the new race, and the ground-color of the breast tends to be green rather than dusky, as it is in *picta*.

So far as I can discover, none of the synonyms of *picta* would apply to the Venezuelan race, so it is necessary to give it a name. The type has been chosen from a locality in the Orinoco Valley.

Wing (type), 119; tail, 108; culmen from cere, 14; tarsus, 11.

***Pyrrhura picta amazonum* Hellmayr.**

Twenty-one specimens: Obidos, Brazil.

Topotypes. This is a strongly marked form, so different from true *picta* that one is tempted to accord it specific rank. In addition to the characters specified by Hellmayr, the breast-feathers are usually green in the center, instead of dusky, as in *picta*. However, in view of the admittedly close relationship between the two, and in deference to current usage, I keep them as conspecies. The squamate markings on the breast are very prominent, and range from buffy to rusty in color.

***Pyrrhura picta microtera*, subsp. nov.**

Seventeen specimens: Santarem, Colonia do Mojuy, and Villa Braga, Brazil.

Type, No. 78,378, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Santarem, Brazil, September 28, 1920; Samuel M. Klages.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Pyrrhura picta amazonum* Hellmayr, but smaller; blue color on forehead averaging more restricted; and ground-color of throat- and breast-feathers darker, dusky rather than greenish.

Range.—South bank of the lower Amazon.

Remarks.—Hellmayr described *amazonum* from Obidos, from which we have a satisfactory series of specimens. Later (Nov. Zool., 14, 1907, 36-38), in reviewing the races of this species, he referred his single specimen from Santarem to the same form, and in so doing was followed by Griscom and Greenway (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 88, 1941, 142). Direct comparison of our series from Santarem and the Rio Tapajóz with another from the north bank of the river (topotypes of *amazonum*), however, shows that the former are constantly smaller, and that they differ also in slight details of coloration. In *amazonum* the wing of the male ranges from 119 to 126 mm., and the tail from 106 to 114 mm. In the Santarem series the males run: wing, 108-116 mm.; tail, 88-101 mm. (excluding badly worn specimens in both series). There is thus every justification for giving the south-bank bird a name.

***Pyrrhura picta luciani* (Deville).**

Fourteen specimens: Hyutanahan and Arimã, Brazil.

On the characters and status of this form *cf.* Gyldenstolpe, K. Svenska Vet. Akad. Handl., 22, No. 3, 1945, 50-52. Our specimens from the Rio Purús agree precisely with his description of specimens from Porto Velho, and they are clearly distinct from *roseifrons* of the upper Rio Juruá and the upper Amazon. *P. p. luciani* has the blue frontlet on the crown very narrow or wanting, while the feathers of the lower breast are strongly centered with green. This form, the type-locality of which Hellmayr (Arch. f. Naturg., 85, Abt. A, 1920, 127) has determined to be Ega (=Teffé), on the Rio Solimoës, ranges from the Rio Purús to the Rio Madeira; it is found on both banks of the latter stream, and may extend still farther east.

PYRRHURA SUBANDINA, A VALID SPECIES.

Pyrrhura subandina was described by the present writer some years ago (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 30, 1917, 6) on the basis of three specimens from Jaraquiel, Bolivar, Colombia, which had been compared with specimens of "immature *Pyrrhura luciani*" in the U. S. National Museum by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser. The diagnosis as published was adapted from Dr. Oberholser's report on his findings. In the meantime our conception of the status of *P. luciani* has altered somewhat, so that it becomes desirable to present a fuller description of *P. subandina*.

Description.—Above, including secondaries externally and wing-coverts,

bright parrot green; rump and median upper tail-coverts garnet brown; primaries externally Paris blue, with black tips and wide black inner margins, and narrow pale green outer margins; outermost primary entirely black; tail dark red (between garnet brown and maroon), with the feathers extensively green on their outer webs towards the base; pileum and nape dark brown (near bister), succeeded by an ill-defined band of Jouvence blue; lores and a narrow frontlet garnet brown; cheeks dark Russian green; ear-coverts dull ochraceous tawny; throat and breast with broadly squamate markings of soiled buff, the feathers with dusky centers; rest of underparts (including under wing-coverts) bright parrot green with a slight bluish shade, the middle of the abdomen extensively garnet brown; "iris straw-color; bill and feet blackish" (Carriker).

Measurements.—Two males: wing, 114, 116; tail, 112, 112; culmen from cere, 15, 14; tarsus, 12, 12. Female (same order), 115, 111, 15, 12.

Range.—Rio Sinu region of northwestern Colombia.

Remarks.—This *Pyrrhura* is completely isolated by the interposition of the Andes from *P. picta luciani*, and its differential characters are such that in my opinion it ought to stand alone. Since birds from the Eastern Andes prove to belong to a closely allied but recognizably distinct race, a trinomial name will now be necessary.

***Pyrrhura subandina cæruleiceps*, subsp. nov.**

Two specimens: El Cauca, Colombia.

Type, No. 54,728, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; El Cauca, Colombia, August 2, 1916; M. A. Carriker, Jr.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Pyrrhura subandina subandina* nobis of the Rio Sinu region of Colombia, but entire pileum dull blue (porcelain blue), with the nape more dusky; lores, cheeks, and circumocular region garnet brown; and throat and breast with the feather-edgings broader and paler soiled white. Size the same: wing (type), 119; tail, 104; bill, 15; tarsus, 12.

Range.—Known only from the type-locality, on the western slope of the Eastern Andes of Colombia.

Remarks.—This is a strongly marked form, and although it is represented by only a single pair of specimens, I do not hesitate to describe it as new. The discovery of two representative forms of the *Pyrrhura picta* group in Colombia west of the Andes is of unusual interest. The comparative rarity of the bird is attested by the fact that thus far no other collector has secured specimens.