

A NEW ANTBIRD FROM VENEZUELA.

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WHILE recently working over a portion of the collection of birds made by Holt, Blake and Agostini on the Upper Orinoco, Casiquiary and Negro Rivers in 1931 for the U. S. National Museum, a series of specimens of *Formicivora grisea* was found which appears to represent an undescribed subspecies, a description of which appears below.

***Formicivora*¹ *grisea rufiventris* subsp. nov.**

Type, ♀ adult, from Cerro Yapacana, Upper Orinoco River, Venezuela, No. 328964, Coll. U. S. Nat. Museum, collected by Holt, Blake and Agostini, April 7' 1931.

Diagnosis: Male almost indistinguishable from *F. g. grisea* of the Guianas, except that the upper parts are slightly darker brown and the wings are shorter (52 to 54 against 57 to 59 mm.).

The female, however differs decidedly, being much more richly colored. The upper parts are more rufous brown and the under parts rich, rufescent or cinnamon ochraceous, instead of pale ochraceous; supraloral streak and superciliaries cinnamon ochraceous instead of white; the wing coverts are almost entirely black, only the inner greater series being slightly shaded with chocolate brown, while the white tips are more pronounced throughout.

Remarks: In addition to the type there are 6♂♂ and 8♀♀, all from the same locality, also 1♂ and 1♀ from near Corocoro, upper Orinoco. The whole series is very uniform in color and size. A single ♀, however from Manaos, in the same collection, is an almost typical specimen of *grisea*, but approaches slightly the new race by having a faint creamy wash on the posterior portion of the superciliary stripe and in having the under parts a little more richly colored than the average Guiana birds.

In the same collection there is a series of skins of *Formicivora orenocensis*, 1♂ and 3♀♀ from the upper Orinoco, 2♀♀ from Puerto Ayacucho and a ♂ and ♀ from the Territorio Federal de Amazonas, Venezuela. The above records show that *F. orenocensis* and *F. grisea rufiventris* occupy the same territory (at least partially), and seem to invalidate Dr. Hellmayr's arrangement of this group, in which he makes *orenocensis* a subspecies of *grisea*. Further, it seems that his arrangement of the *grisea-intermedia* group is a most arbitrary one, and that the various races of these two forms fall very logically and reasonably into two well defined species, viz: the forms in which the females are unspotted or unstreaked below belonging to

¹ *Formicivora* Swainson 1825, is not invalidated by *Formicivorus* Temminck, 1807, according to ruling of the Committee on International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature.

F. grisea, while those which have the under parts spotted or streaked would fall under *F. intermedia*, as follows.

- F. grisea grisea* (Boddaert), Guianas and North Brazil.
- F. grisea rufiventris* subsp. nov., Upper Orinoco, Venezuela.
- F. grisea hondae* (Chapman), N. and Cent. Colombia, Valley of Magdalena.
- F. grisea alticincta* Bangs, San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama.
- F. grisea deluzae* Ménétrières, Southeastern Brazil.
- F. intermedia intermedia* Cabanis, N. and W. Venezuela and NE. Colombia.
- F. intermedia fumosa* (Cory), State of Zulia, NW. Venezuela.
- F. intermedia tobagensis* Dalmás, Island of Tobago.
- F. intermedia orenocensis* Hellmayr, Southern Venezuela.

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