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Notes on a collection of birds from Costa Rica preserved
in the collections of the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam

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ABSTRACT

Thirteen species of birds, including several endemics, from the Costa Rican highlands, and now preserved in the Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam, are reported. Some specimens are topotypical.

This is a report on a very small collection of birds from Costa Rica made by the author in company of Dr. G. Kruseman, during a period when we were both staying in El Salvador. On the collections made in the last named country and in the adjacent Central American states will be reported later on.

The collection made in Costa Rica consists of about 20 specimens, representing 13 species. Some field records by the author have been added to this paper. Considering the recent publications on the birds of this country (Skutch, 1954 & 1960; Slud, 1964) the collection hardly contributes new facts to the knowledge of this country. Still it contains some interesting endemic species as *Junco vulcani*, *Chlorospingus zeledoni*, and *Vermivora gutturalis*, rarely found in European collections. The collection was made during a short visit in October 1952 mainly to the Irazu and Cordillera de Talamanca area. The habitat at an altitude of 2000—3000 m in this area belongs to the cloudforest zone with groves of *Quercus costaricensis* Liebm., *Quercus irazuensis* Kuntze with undergrowth of Ericacea (*Gaultheria* species). In this zone and the adjoining páramo-vegetation several species were observed and collected. Many of the collected specimens can be considered topotypical material. In the following list of the species collected I have basically followed Wetmore as far as the classification of families.

In addition to the usual symbols for males (♂) and females (♀) I have made use of a third symbol (○) for specimens of which the sex remained unknown.

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[63]

LIST OF SPECIES

Columbigallina passerina neglecta Carriker. Type locality: Esparta, Costa-Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 16.160 (coll. H. Cr. no 56), ♀, 19 October 1952. Wing 83; tail 67; weight 36 g; no fat, no moult. Stomach contains seeds.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 16.161 (coll. H. Cr. no. 55), ♂, 19 October 1952. Wing 87; tail 71; weight 37 g; no fat, some moult. Stomach contains seeds.

The two specimens were collected at Huncales near San José, about 1200 m alt. in the region of the tropical dry forest. These specimens formed a pair observed and collected in a flower and vegetable garden.

Momotus momota lessonii Lesson. Type locality: Nicaragua.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 12.019 (coll. H. Cr. no 57), ♂, 19 October 1952, Huncales near San José, about 1200 m alt. Wing 136; tail 250; weight 105 g; no fat, some moult. Stomach contains rests of fruit and some worms.

Collected in a garden under orangetrees. This bird frequents open woodland and places where the original forest is removed.

Lepidocolaptes affinis neglectus (Ridgway). Type locality: Coliblanco, eastern Costa Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.451 (coll. H. Cr. no. 44), ♂, 15 October 1952, slope vulcano Irazú, 3100 m alt. Wing 108; tail 96; weight 19 g; no fat, some moult. Iris dark-brown, legs greengray. Stomach contains small insects.

Collected in parklandscape of scattered trees and wooded gullies. This species should be typical for the humid upper Tropical zone.

Tyrannus melancholicus chloronatus Berlepsch. Type locality: Yucatan.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.446 (coll. H. Cr. no. 46), ♀, 15 October 1952, slope vulcano Irazú, 2000 m alt. Wing 118; tail 99; weight 19 g; no fat, some moult. Iris darkbrown, feet grayishgreen. Stomach contains insects (flies and beetles).

Observed and collected when catching food in typical flycatcher manner in cultivated country.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.444 (coll. H. Cr. no 49), ♀, 18 October 1952, Tacares near Alajuel, 850 m alt. Wing 107; tail 84; weight 33 g; no fat, some moult. Stomach contains insects and spiders.

Observed and collected when catching food from telegraph wire, in cultivated country.

FIG. 1 (top). Highroad through Cordillera de Talamanca with cloudforest vegetation and groves of *Quercus costaricensis* Liebm. and *Gaultheria* species as undergrowth at 2500 m altitude. Habitat of *Chlorospingus zeledoni*, *Catharus gracilirostris*, *Empidonax atriceps*, etc.

Photo H. W. E. Croockewit, October 1952.

FIG. 2 (bottom). Transition vegetation between cloudforest and páramo, at 2900 m altitude, with bambo (*Chusquea subtessellata*) and treeferns (*Lomaria* spec.). Habitat of *Junco vulcani*, *Catharus gracilirostris*, etc.

Photo H. W. E. Croockewit, October 1952.



Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.445 (coll. H. Cr. no. 53), ♀, 18 October 1952, Porvenir (dep. Alajuela) 800 m alt. Wing 114; tail 95; weight 39 g. Stomach contains small insects. Collected when looking for food from treebranch in cultivated country.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.447 (coll. H. Cr. no. 54), ♂, 18 October 1952, Porvenir (dep. Alajuela), 800 m alt. Wing 117; tail 99; weight 47 g; no fat, some moult on head, neck and back. Stomach contains big beetles and flies. Collected in cultivated country.

This species is typical for the central plateau and rarer on high altitude, but can be found if there is open countryside.

Megarynchus pitangua mexicanus (La Fresnaye). Type locality: Mexico.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.450 (coll. H. Cr. no. 52), ♂, 18 October 1952, Porvenir (dep. Alajuela), 800 m alt. Wing 132; tail 96; weight 47 g; no fat, no moult. Stomach contains insects. Collected in open cultivated country. A species tolerant with regard to climatic as well as to habitat conditions.

Empidonax astriceps Salvin. Type locality: Volcán de Chiriqui, Panama.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr 19.449 (coll. H. Cr. no. 48), ♂, 17 October 1952, on the road to Cerro de la Muerte, 2800 m alt. Wing 63; tail 52; weight 21 g; no fat, no moult. Stomach contains small flies and bugs.

Collected in a open space of the cloudforest with *Quercus* vegetation (probably *Q. costaricensis* Liebm.). The bird sitting on a perch was looking for food.

Rhynchocyclus brevirostris brevirostris (Cabanis). Type locality: Jalapa, Mexico.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.448 (coll. H. Cr. no. 50), ♂, 18 October 1952, Zarcero (dep. Alajuela), 1650 m alt. Wing 84; tail 72; weight 21 g; no fat, no moult.

Collected in cultivated country. It is a bird of humid forest and the borders of it. The locality was rather unusual. Slud found it rarely on the Pacific slope of the mountains.

Catharus gracilirostris gracilirostris Salvin. Type locality: Volcán de Cartago, Costa Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 14.001 (coll. H. Cr. 39), ♂, 14 October 1952, Cerro de la Muerte above Cartago, 2900 m alt. Wing 81; tail 67; weight 17 g; no fat, no moult. Iris darkbrown. Stomach contains small insects.

Collected in the cloudforest area in low shrubs and fern vegetation along the highroad through the Cordillera de Talamanca between Cartago and San Isidro del General.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 14.006 (coll. H. Cr. 45), ♂, 15 October 1952, volcán de Irazú, 2600 m alt. Wing 78; tail 64; weight 15 g; no fat, no moult. Iris darkbrown, feet light brown. Stomach contains insects.

Collected in parklandscape of scattered trees and groups of trees.

Typical bird of clearings in cloudforest vegetation. The way it was moving on the ground reminded of the European robin.

Vermivora gutturalis Cabanis. Type locality: Volcán Irazú, Costa Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.452 (coll. H. Cr. no 42), ♂, 15 October 1952, slope of Irazú vulcano, 3100 m alt. Wing 64; tail 50; weight 7.5 g.

A flock of these birds were searching for food in the trees of a parklandscape with scattered trees and wooded gullies.

Vermivora peregrina (Wilson). Type locality: Cumberland River, Tennessee.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.358 (coll. H. Cr. no. 51), ♂, 18 October 1952, San Juan (dep. Alajuela) 1200 m alt. Wing 67; tail missing; weight 8 g. Little fat, no moult. Stomach contains small insects. Collected in cultivated country.

This winter migrant has some white etching on the tops of primaries, missing on birds in the breeding country.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata Pallas. Type locality: Kodiak Islands, Alaska.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 19.443 (coll. H. Cr. no. 47), ♀, 17 October 1952, Cerro de la Muerte, 2800 m alt. Wing 55; tail 54; weight 4 g.

Observed and collected when searching for food under shrubs in the cloudforest zone.

Chlorospingus zeledoni Ridgway. Type locality: Volcán Irazú, Costa Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 14.005 (coll. H. Cr. no. 41), ♀, 15 October 1952, slope vulcano Irazú, 3100 m alt. Wing 68; tail 59; weight 17 g; some fat, no moult. Iris orange-brown, legs slate colour. Stomach contains seeds and insects. Observed and collected in a parklandscape of scattered trees and wooded gullies.

Dr. D. Amadon (in litt.) mentions that he is inclined to agree with Hellmayr's footnote (1936: 409—410) in which the later suggests that *zeledoni* might be a color phase or some form of *Chlorospingus pileatus* Salvin. This (sibling) species is only known from the Irazú-Turrialba massif.

Junco vulcani Boucard. Type locality: Volcán Irazú, Costa Rica.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 16.263 (coll. H. Cr. 38), ♂, 14 October 1952, Cerro de la Muerte, 3200 m alt. Wing 82; tail 77; weight 24 g; no fat, some moult on head and back. Stomach contains small stones, seeds, and insects. Iris orange yellow.

Collected in the shrubs above the tree-line, where the paramo vegetation starts.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 16.264 (coll. H. Cr. no. 40), ♀, 14 October 1952 Cerro de la Muerte ± 3000 m alt. Wing 75; tail 77; weight 20.5 g; no fat, some moult all over. Iris orange brownyellow. Stomach contains seeds. Collected on the border of the cloudforest in shrubs and fern vegetation.

Coll. Z.M.A. Nr. 16.262 (coll. H. Cr. no. 43), ♂, 15 October 1952, slope vulcano Irazú, 3100 m alt. Wing 78; tail 77; weight 21 g; no fat, no moult. Iris orange-yellow-brown. Stomach contains small seeds. Collected in parklandscape with scattered trees and wooded gullies.

The three specimens were compared by Prof. Berlioz in Paris with the original type specimens of Boucard and were found to be identical.

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