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DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM NICARAGUA

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After unavoidable delay we have been able to resume work on our Nicaraguan collections, and it seems advisable at this time to submit descriptions of new species and subspecies for criticism, pending the appearance of the completed report.

We are particularly indebted to Doctor J. Dwight for the privilege of using his series of beautifully prepared Costa Rican skins for comparison, and our acknowledgments are also due Doctor Richmond of the U. S. National Museum and the authorities of the Biological Survey for the privilege of comparing some of our material with specimens in the collections in their respective institutions.

Measurements, unless otherwise stated, are in millimeters, and color terms are taken from Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature.'

Nyctiphrynus lautus, new species

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Most nearly related to *N. ocellatus* (Tschudi) of Amazonia but much smaller (wing and tail nearly a half inch shorter); feathers of pileum and occiput about evenly vermiculated with blackish and tawny, instead of largely black with ochraceous-buff vermiculations; ground color of upperparts, wings and tail more richly colored, tawny or rufous chestnut, instead of rufous brown or chocolate-brown, most pronounced on the wing-coverts and scapulars; velvety spots on scapulars greatly reduced in number, about one half as large as in *ocellatus*; the spots on the wing-coverts lighter colored, some nearly pure white, more conspicuous, due to the rich tawny background; lateral tail-feathers blackish instead of dusky, barred with tawny instead of buffy, from below about twice as broad; the snow-white tips to the outer feathers only about half as broad; a distinct deep rufous superciliary stripe; chin, lores and auricular region strongly tinged with tawny; the pure white throat band followed by a narrow line of feathers largely dull buffy basally, appearing like half-concealed spots, these feathers blackish terminally, appearing as an irregular border to the white band, all this wanting in *ocellatus*; feathers of the apron-like flap across the breast tipped with tawny, instead of being uniform as in *ocellatus*; rest of underparts with the ground color rich tawny or chestnut as above, the white spots greatly reduced in number and size, absent entirely from the area just below the gray bib; under wing-coverts barred with tawny, immaculate in *ocellatus*.

TYPE.—No. 103,685, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Peña Blanca, northeastern Nicaragua; June 5, 1909; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Nyctiphrynus ocellatus.—BRAZIL: 1? ECUADOR: Rio Suno, 1 ♀.

Nyctiphrynus lautus.—NICARAGUA: Peña Blanca, 1 ♀.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
<i>N. ocellatus</i>	128–129.5	113–128	11–12	17.5–18.3 mm.
<i>N. lautus</i>	116	103	11	17

This handsome little poorwill is known from the one specimen only, the first record of the genus from Central America. The fact that a distinct species of *Lurocalis* has recently been discovered in Caribbean Nicaragua is an additional illustration of how difficult it is to determine the distribution of the rarer members of this family.

***Abeillia abeillei aurea*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *A. a. abeillei* (Delattre and Lesson) of Mexico and Guatemala, but upperparts, chest, abdomen and flanks everywhere metallic golden-green instead of bronze-green or emerald-green, most conspicuous on the flanks; size averaging considerably smaller.

TYPE.—No. 103,341, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; San Rafael del Norte (above 4000 feet), Nicaragua; February 3, 1909; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Abeillia abeillei abeillei.—MEXICO: 6 ♂. GUATEMALA: 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Abeillia abeillei aurea.—NICARAGUA: Quilali, 1 ♀; San Rafael del Norte, 7 ♂, 2 ♀; Matagalpa, 1 ♂.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail
Eight males; Mexico and Guatemala	45–49 (47.6)	27–32(29.4) mm.
Eight males; Nicaragua	44–46.5(45.6)	26–28(27.4)
One female; Guatemala	45.5(45.5)	26(26)
Three females; Nicaragua	42–45 (43.5)	24–26(25)

This little hummingbird is a common species of the humid sub-tropical zone on the summits of the highest mountains in north-central Nicaragua, with an altitudinal range of little more than 250 feet. Its distinctness from northern examples is so marked as to require no comment. The species is not recorded from Honduras, though the meager collecting in that country does not warrant the statement that it does not occur there.

***Hyloctistes virgatus nicaraguae*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Hyloctistes virgatus virgatus* Lawrence of Costa Rica, but upperparts much darker, more blackish brown, less rufescent; interscapulum and back more heavily streaked, the light and dark areas on each feather

more contrasted; underparts slightly darker, particularly the dark margins to the feathers of the throat and breast, which are dusker, less olive or brown; flanks and sides never rufescent, more olive, less tawny; culmen a little shorter, 20-22 mm., instead of 22-24.5 mm.

TYPE.—No. 102,861, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Rio Grande, Nicaragua, April 1, 1908; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Hyloctistes virgatus nicaraguzæ.—NICARAGUA: Rio Grande, 2 ♂; Peña Blanca, 1 ♂.

Hyloctistes virgatus virgatus.—COSTA RICA: Bonilla, 1 ♀; El Pozo de Térraba, 1 ♀. PANAMA: Chitrá, Chiriquí, 1 ♀. Also the type and a good series from Costa Rica in the U. S. National Museum.

Nicaraguan specimens of this uncommon bird prove to be distinctly darker than a good series of typical Costa Rican skins in the U. S. National Museum, with which we have compared them, and they are apparently worthy of subspecific designation. The species is new to Nicaragua.

Pachyrhampus major australis, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling typical *P. m. major* (Cabanis) of eastern Mexico, but adult male with interscapular region with much less black, and slightly paler below, in these respects intermediate between typical *major* and *P. m. itzensis* Nelson of Yucatan; female much darker than in *major*, cinnamon-rufous above rather than light buff-tawny, the yellow tinge beneath more marked; size slightly smaller than typical *major*, larger than *itzensis*.

TYPE.—No. 101,334, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua; April 7, 1907; Wm. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Pachyrhampus major major.—MEXICO: Jalapa, Vera Cruz, 3 ♂, 2 ♀; Nuevo Leon, 6 ♂, 2 ♀.

Pachyrhampus major itzensis.—YUCATAN: 2 ♂.

Pachyrhampus major australis.—GUATEMALA: 1 ♂, 2 ♀. NICARAGUA: San Rafael del Norte, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; Arenal District, Matagalpa, 1 ♀.

Mr. Ridgway has already called attention to the differences between Guatemalan and Mexican specimens ('Birds N. and Mid. Amer.,' IV, p. 834), particularly as to size, which our measurements confirm. The discovery that Nicaraguan specimens exhibit the same differences indicates their racial value, and, in addition, the female proves to be darker. While the male has less black on the interscapulum than *major*, thus approaching *itzensis*, the gray of the upperparts is not paler than *major*, and in this respect it does not approach *itzensis*, and is decidedly different from *uropygiatis* Nelson from Sinaloa, judging by the description of the unique type.

Platytriccus cancrominus dilutus, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to typical *Platytriccus cancrominus* (Selater and Salvin) from eastern Guatemala to eastern Nicaragua but distinctly paler, less yellow below, the buffy olive-brown wash less intense on the chest, entirely absent on the sides and flanks in most specimens; edgings of secondaries and wing-coverts scarcely or not at all tinged with russet.

TYPE.—No. 101,275, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Volcan Viejo, western Nicaragua; May 9, 1907; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Platytriccus c. cancrominus.—GUATEMALA: 2 ?. NICARAGUA: Matagalpa, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Rio Coco, 1 ♂; Ocotal, 1 ?; Tuma, 1 ♀; Uluce, 2 ♀; Savala, 2 ♀.

Platytriccus c. dilutus.—NICARAGUA: Chinandega, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Volcan Viejo, 3 ♂, 1 ♀. COSTA RICA: Las Cañas, 1 ♂; Miravalles, 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

The new subspecies is an obviously paler bird in series, even when allowance has been made for the yellower tone of specimens in fresh plumage. A bird from Matagalpa is intermediate, and none of the Nicaraguan specimens is quite as dark or as brown above as the two Guatemalan skins. Three skins from Miravalles resemble *dilutus* in their general paleness beneath and in their lack of russet edgings, but the brown wash below is as distinct as in typical *cancrominus*. They may represent an undescribed local race.

Mitrephanes phæocercus nicaraguæ, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling typical *Mitrephanes phæocercus* Selater of Vera Cruz, but slightly greener, less brown above; lower abdomen more extensively yellowish ochre, less tawny buff; light edgings to the secondaries whiter and broader; size much smaller. Still more different from *M. ph. tenuirostris* Brewster of western Mexico, which is a paler bird throughout, and larger even than typical *phæocercus*.

TYPE.—144,178, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua (alt. 5000 feet); March 25, 1917; Miller, Griscom, and Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Mitrephanes ph. phæocercus.—MEXICO: Vera Cruz, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Mexico City, 1 ♀. GUATEMALA: 2 ♂.

Mitrephanes ph. tenuirostris.—MEXICO: Chihuahua, 1 ♂; Jalisco, 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Mitrephanes ph. nicaraguæ.—NICARAGUA: Ocotal, 3 ♂; San Rafael del Norte, 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Culmen
Six males; southern Mexico	69 -73	9 -10 mm.
Four males; Nicaragua	62.5-68	8.5-9
Eight females; Mexico and Guatemala	66 -72	8.5-10
Two females; Nicaragua	63	9

This new subspecies shows a slight approach in characters to *M. aurantiiventris* of Costa Rica and Chiriqui, but it is by no means intermediate, and, in our opinion, the latter should be kept specifically distinct. The measurements alone would seem to justify the formal designation of the Nicaraguan bird. We quote the measurements given by Ridgway ('Birds N. and Mid. Amer.,' IV, p. 499) of Mexican and Guatemalan skins, with which our few specimens agree.

***Empidonax albigularis australis*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to typical *Empidonax albigularis* Sclater and Salvin of Mexico and Guatemala, but upperparts slightly more olivaceous, less brown; lores, eye-ring and wing-bars whiter, less brownish buff; chest-band less brownish and consequently less contrasted with the throat; belly, flanks and under tail-coverts yellower, less brown or buff.

TYPE.—No. 101,294, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua; April 11, 1907; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Empidonax alb. albigularis.—MEXICO: Jalapa, Vera Cruz, 1 ♂; Huexotitla, Puebla, 1 ♀.

Empidonax alb. australis.—NICARAGUA: San Rafael del Norte, 1 ♂. COSTA RICA: Agua Caliente, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; Tejar, 1 ♂.

This rare and little known species differs from all other North and Central American species of the genus in having the bend of the wing, under wing-coverts, and thighs cinnamon-buff, a much better key character than the buffy under tail-coverts, as the new subspecies, *australis*, approaches those species having whitish or yellowish under tail-coverts. Were it not for this character, the birds described above could be regarded as specifically distinct, so markedly different are they from typical *albigularis* in the color of the underparts. Fortunately, our limited material is comparable, all specimens being late spring birds in fresh or slightly worn breeding plumage. In general coloration the new form is very close to brown extremes of typical *Empidonax traillii*. It has a buffy tinge, however, to the belly and under tail-coverts and a much shorter wing.

***Myiochanes pertinax minor*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Indistinguishable from typical *Myiochanes pertinax* (Cabanis and Heine) from Jalapa, Vera Cruz, in color, but averaging much smaller.

TYPE.—No. 144,202, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; between San Rafael del Norte and Jinotega, Nicaragua; April 4, 1917; Miller and Griscom.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE.—Wing, 98 mm.; tail, 74.5 mm.; culmen, 17.5 mm.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Myiochanes pert. pertinax.—MEXICO: Jalapa, Vera Cruz, 6 ♂, 3 ♀; Jalisco, 4 ♂, 8 ♀; Tepic, 1 ♀; Sinaloa, 1 ♀; Chiapas, 1 ♀. GUATEMALA: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 2 ♀.
Myiochanes pert. minor.—Northern NICARAGUA: 2 ♂, 5 ♀.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
Six males; Jalapa, Vera Cruz (<i>pertinax</i>)	105 -111	82.5-92	15.5-18 mm.
Two males; Nicaragua (<i>minor</i>)	98 -105.5	74.5-81	16 -17.5
Three females; Jalapa, Vera Cruz (<i>pertinax</i>)	94.5-103.5	77 -86	16.5-17
Five females; Nicaragua (<i>minor</i>)	92 - 96	72 -76	15 -16

We give measurements of toptypical Jalapan birds only, as Guatemalan examples are slightly smaller, and western Mexican birds are slightly larger. The latter are a little paler on the belly and may prove separable. Guatemalan skins appear to be slightly more ochraceous below.

***Myiarchus lawrenceii connectens*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to typical *M. l. lawrenceii* (Giraud) of northeastern Mexico in color, but with a much shorter wing, and proportionately longer bill, in this respect resembling *M. l. nigricapillus* Cabanis of Costa Rica. Differing from the latter in color just as does typical *lawrenceii*.

TYPE.—No. 144,240, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Las Cañas, Matagalpa, Nicaragua; March 16, 1917; Miller and Griscom.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Myiarchus lawr. bangsi.—PANAMA: Veraguas, 1 ♂; Chiriqui, 1 ♂, 4 ♀, 1 ♀. COSTA RICA: Volcan de Oso, 2 ♀; Buenos Aires, 4 ♂, 1 ♀; El Pozo, Rio Terraba, 5 ♂, 2 ♀.

Myiarchus lawr. nigricapillus.—COSTA RICA: Bonilla, 2 ♂; Navarro, 3 ♂, 1 ♀; Aguinares, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Las Cañas, 1 ♀; Guayabo, 1 ♀; San Jose, 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♀; no locality, 3 ♀. NICARAGUA: San Francisco, 1 ♂.

Myiarchus lawr. connectens.—COSTA RICA: El Zapotal, Guanacaste, 2 ♀. NICARAGUA: Ocotol, 1 ♀; San Rafael del Norte, 2 ♂; Las Cañas, 1 ♂; Matagalpa, 1 ♀; Tipitapa, 1 ♂; Chinandega, 1 ♂; Volcan Viejo, 2 ♂, 2 ♀; Corinto, 2 ♂, 3 ♀. HONDURAS: Ceiba, 2 ♂. GUATEMALA: 6 ♂, 5 ♀, 6 ♀.

Myiarchus lawr. lawrenceii.—MEXICO: Nuevo Leon, 3 ♂, 4 ♀; Tamaulipas, 8 ♂, 2 ♀; Mexico City, 1 ♂; Vera Cruz, 8 ♂, 1 ♀.

MEASUREMENTS OF MALES

	Wing	Culmen	
Eleven males; northeastern Mexico	83 -90 (87)	16 -18	mm. <i>lawrenceii</i>
Seven males; Vera Cruz	81.5-88 (85)	16 -18	"
Six males; Guatemala	78 -83.5(80.8)	17 -18	<i>connectens</i>
Seven males; Nicaragua	80 -83 (81.4)	16.5-18	"
Ten males; Costa Rica	72 -83 (78.5)	16.5-18	<i>nigricapillus</i>

MEASUREMENTS OF FEMALES

Three females; northeastern Mexico	88 -90 (89)	17 -17.5	<i>lawrenceii</i>
One female; Vera Cruz	83 (83)	16.5	"
Five females; Guatemala	75 -82 (77.6)	16.5-18	<i>connectens</i>
Seven females; Nicaragua	75.5-80 (77)	16 -18	"
Six females; Costa Rica	73 -78.5(75.9)	16.5-18	<i>nigricapillus</i>

When Mr. Ridgway wrote his account of *Myiarchus* in the 'Birds of North and Middle America,' paucity of material led him to refer fresh specimens of *nigricapillus* from eastern Costa Rica to *bangsi* of Chiriqui. Carriker subsequently pointed out that this course was incorrect, and the abundant material listed above fully endorses his conclusions. A long series of fresh specimens from northern and western Nicaragua shows that they are brown-capped birds, like typical *lawrenceii*, with browner backs, and are strikingly distinct from *nigricapillus*. They are much smaller in size, however, than a series of true *lawrenceii* from northeastern Mexico. Vera Cruz birds are slightly intermediate, but the "break" in size is apparently south of the isthmus of Tehuantepec. We here definitely designate the type locality of typical *lawrenceii* as Nuevo Leon. The fact that there are now three subspecies in Costa Rica raises the question of just which one Cabanis had when he described *nigricapillus* from "Costa Rica." His description gives an excellent comparison with *lawrenceii* from Mexico and cannot possibly refer to *connectens*. Secondly, his specimens were collected by von Frantzius, who never visited southwestern Costa Rica, so that he could not have been describing *bangsi*. We therefore feel justified in suggesting Bonilla, eastern Costa Rica, as the type locality of *nigricapillus*. As is well known in *Myiarchus*, birds in fresh fall plumage are greener above and deeper yellow below. In this species the cap is darker also, so that worn specimens of *nigricapillus* are scarcely distinguishable from fresh specimens of *connectens*. A final point is that old skins collected by Carmiol have turned very brown with age. We give below a summary of the characters and ranges of the various subspecies with which we are here concerned.

1.—*Myiarchus lawr. lawrenceii*. Range: Mexico from Nuevo Leon to Vera Cruz and probably Chiapas and Tabasco. Pileum sooty brown; upperparts olive to olive-brown; wing of topotypical males 83-90 mm.

2.—*Myiarchus lawr. connectens*. Range: Guatemala, Honduras, central, northern and western Nicaragua, Costa Rica (Guanacaste). Similar in color to last; wing ♂, 78-83.5 mm.

3.—*Myiarchus lawr. nigricapillus*. Range: southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica (except extreme northwest and southwest portions). Pileum sooty black; upperparts

distinctly more greenish olive; averaging slightly smaller than *connectens*; wing ♂, 72–83 mm.

4.—*Myiarchus lawr. bangsi*. Range: southwestern Costa Rica to Chiriqui and Veraguas, western Panama. Pileum deep black in abrupt contrast with the greenish olive-back; size as in *nigricapillus*.

***Heleodytes rufinucha nicaraguæ*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling *Heleodytes rufinucha* Lafresnaye from central Guatemala, but pileum a deeper, purer black, the feathers of the back part of the head especially with little or no brown basally; upperparts much more conspicuously variegated, the white central shaft streak expanded to a series of diamond-shaped patches, occupying the central two-thirds of each feather, alternating with patches of black of similar shape and extent, forming a conspicuous “herring-bone” pattern; averaging slightly larger.

TYPE.—No. 144,328, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Matagalpa (3500 ft.), Nicaragua; April 8, 1917; Miller and Griscom.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Heleodytes rufinucha rufinucha.—GUATEMALA: Progreso, 8 ♂, 9 ♀, 2 ?

Heleodytes rufinucha nicaraguæ.—NICARAGUA: Matagalpa, 2 ♂, 3 ♀; Calabasas, 1 ♂; Tipitapa, 3 ♂.

While we have seen no topotypical Mexican material of *Heleodytes rufinucha*, Nicaraguan birds are obviously distinct from a large Guatemalan series, and the latter agree in size and with the description of Mexican birds given by Ridgway. In Guatemalan birds the feathers of the upperparts have a narrow white shaft streak which, in only four specimens, is expanded sufficiently to produce a spot-like appearance. Wing measurements compare as follows:

Nine males; Mexico (Ridgway)	70	–77	(73.7) mm.
Eight males; Guatemala	72	–78	(74.8)
Six males; Nicaragua	77.5	–80	(78.9)
Seven females; Mexico (Ridgway)	67	–69	(67.9)
Six females; Guatemala	70	–75	(71.7)
Three females; Nicaragua	74	–75.5	(75.1)

The very interesting relationship of this species to the coastal *Heleodytes capistratus* will be discussed in our final report.

***Thryothorus albinucha subfulvus*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Most nearly related to typical *albinucha* Cabot of Yucatan, but strikingly distinct in having the entire underparts pale cinnamon in marked contrast with the white chin; slightly darker above; black and white streaking on sides of neck more extensive, practically meeting across the back. Wing of type, 60 mm.; tail, 44; culmen, 17.5; tarsus, 22.

TYPE.—No. 144,368, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Calabasas, 5 miles south of Metapa (1300 ft.), Nicaragua; March 13, 1917; Miller and Griscom.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Thryothorus albinucha albinucha.—YUCATAN: 4 ♂.

Thryothorus albinucha subfulvus.—NICARAGUA: the type.

The uniform cinnamon underparts of this bird are in marked contrast to the underparts of *albinucha*, which are white with buffy grayish-brown flanks. Were it not for the fact that the great gap in the range affords ample opportunity for intergradation, *subfulvus* might be regarded as specifically distinct.

The generic characters of this whole group of wrens is a problem of exceptional difficulty, and they are admittedly minute. We cannot follow Mr. Ridgway in referring this species to *Thryomanes* and have drawn up the following table of characters for the various species concerned.

	1	2	3
	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	<i>Thryothorus albinucha</i>	<i>Thryomanes</i>
SIZE	Larger	Larger	Smaller
BILL	Longer and stouter	As in No. 1, but even longer	Shorter and more slender
FEET	Heavier	Heavier	More slender
HALLUX	Longer than outer toe	Intermediate	Not longer than outer toe
TAIL	Proportionately much shorter	As in No. 1	Proportionately much longer
SONG	As in No. 2	As in No. 1	Quite different

Thryomanes brevicauda in length of bill and shortness of tail is a distinct approach to *Thryothorus*, but this table shows that *albinucha* is better placed in *Thryothorus*.

