

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

TWO NEW BIRDS FROM SAN MIGUEL ISLAND,
BAY OF PANAMA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

THE accession of better material, and a more careful study and comparison of the birds collected on San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama, by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., in the spring of 1900, have led me to describe as new several species that at first I referred to mainland birds. Even after the two which I now name — the Vireo, which I formerly called *Vireo chivi agilis*, and the ant wren, which I referred to *Drymophila intermedia*,¹ — there still remain undescribed three or four species whose identity with their mainland representatives I greatly question. The birds were taken late in the spring and some are in worn plumage, and I was unable to find mainland examples in corresponding condition for comparison. In the cases of the *Saltator* and the *Ornithion* the differences seem too great to be accounted for by abrasion or fading, and I think both these will prove to be island forms, requiring names.

I have now studied material which warrants me in naming the following two species.

Formicivora² **alticincta**³ sp. nov.

Type, from San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama, ♂ adult, no. 4940, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected April 30, 1900, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

¹ Auk, Vol. XVIII, pp. 24-32, Jan., 1901.

² See Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe's note on the use of the generic names *Formicivora* and *Drymophila*, Hand List of Birds, Vol. III, p. 25, 1901.

³ *Alticinctus* — active, busy.

Characters.— Size of *F. intermedia* Cab., with rather stouter bill. Color of back much darker; top of head dark grayish brown, contrasting with color of back; the black band down centre of belly wider, leaving space occupied by the long plume-like white feathers of the sides narrower.

Color.— Adult male (female unknown): pileum mouse gray, the centres of the feathers darker—showing as indistinct lines; a broad white superciliary stripe; back and rump dark broccoli brown; wings black, conspicuously marked with white at ends of lesser, middle and greater coverts, the ends of primaries, secondaries and tertials gradually becoming brownish; tail black, the feathers tipped with white, shorter ones much so, longer ones less; throat, chest, sides of head and middle of belly, to and including under tail coverts, black; a narrow area along sides occupied by long, silky, plume-like, white feathers; feet and bill black.

MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters).

No.	Sex and age	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Exposed culmen
4940 (type)	♂ ad.	54.	48.	22.	14.8
4939 (topotype)	♂ ad.	56.	48.	21.	14.4

Remarks.— The type locality of true *Formicivora intermedia* Cab. is Colombia, Cabanis saying his museum had specimens from Cartagena and also from the Valley of Aragua in Venezuela.¹ All specimens from northern Colombia—Santa Marta to the Bogota region—are similar. They are small (wing of adult male about 55 mm.) and pale above; the color of the back is drab, and the head is not darker and not grayish.

The bird of Tobago has lately been separated as *F. tobagoensis* Delmas (Mém. Soc. Zool. France, XIII, p. 141, 1900). It is a large, dark-colored form (wing in adult male about 60 mm.). Specimens from the coast of Venezuela—Margarita Island and La Guayra—approach it in color, but are smaller, and seem to be intermediate between it and true *F. intermedia*.

I cannot find any record for the bird from the continent as far north as Panama, and it was therefore a surprise to find a form on San Miguel Island. This island form is easily distinguished from true *F. intermedia* by its stouter bill, its grayish head and dark coloration, and from *F. tobagoensis*—which it more nearly resembles in color—by much smaller size.

¹ Wiegman. Arch., 1847, pt. 1, p. 225 and following.



Bangs, Outram. 1902. "Two new birds from San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama." *Proceedings of the New England Zoo*
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logical Club 3, 71–73.

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