

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW WOODPECKERS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD.

In the course of the writer's studies of the neotropical birds in the collection of the Carnegie Museum, two heretofore unrecognized races of the genus *Melanerpes* have been discovered, but pending the examination of additional material their publication has been delayed. More recent comparisons having apparently confirmed their validity, it has seemed best to publish descriptions of the new forms in advance of the more extensive paper in which they were originally intended to appear. The type specimens have been generously presented to the Carnegie Museum by Pomona College, Claremont, California, through the courtesy of Prof. C. F. Baker.

***Melanerpes formicivorus albeolus* subsp. nov.**

BELIZE WOODPECKER.

Type, No. 32,702, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; near Manatee, British Honduras, September 21, 1905; J. D. Johnson.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *M. f. striatipectus* Ridgway, but with sides and flanks much less streaked, and throat paler yellow, often nearly white.

Description.—Adult male: nasal tufts, chin, sides of head and neck, upper breast, cervix, back, wings, and tail black with a metallic green sheen, less decided on remiges and rectrices, the outer pair of rectrices with small distal spots of white, a large white patch at base of primaries, and the secondaries barred with white on inner webs; rump, upper tail-coverts, forehead, malar space, throat, breast, abdomen, and crissum white, the throat washed with canary yellow, the breast broadly, the sides, flanks and crissum narrowly streaked with black; whole crown and occiput red.

Adult female similar, but crown black.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 136 mm.; tail, 82; exposed culmen, 25; tarsus, 21.

Remarks.—The new form resembles the more southern *M. f. striatipectus* in the character and extent of the breast striping, but differs as aforesaid, the throat being practically white or with only a slight tinge of canary yellow, while in *striatipectus* this color is more pronounced and constant (irrespective of season) than in any other form of this species. Compared with *M. f. formicivorus* from Tetela del Volcan, Morelos, Mexico, assumed to be typical, the British Honduras bird differs further in being much less distinctly streaked on the sides and flanks, giving it a whiter appearance below, this character serving to separate it from all the other known forms, while the pectoral band is less "solid," more extensively striated. None of the series of birds examined from eastern Mexico approach the present form at all closely, so that it seems well entitled to recognition. I have seen no examples from Honduras, but Guatemala specimens seem referable to true *formicivorus*, so that it is probable that the present form is confined to the coast region of British Honduras, possibly extending northward into Yucatan.

***Melanerpes pucherani perileucus* subsp. nov.**

WHITE-BARRED WOODPECKER.

Type, No. 32,703, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; near Manatee, British Honduras, December 22, 1905; J. D. Johnson.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Melanerpes pucherani* from Nicaragua southward, but with more white on the wing-coverts, rectrices, remiges, and back; and the abdominal red more restricted.

Description.—Adult male: extreme forehead cadmium yellow; crown and occiput carmine; postorbital stripe, superciliary stripe, cervix, sides of neck, back, wings, and tail black, the back regularly barred with white, the wings (except lesser coverts) conspicuously spotted externally, barred internally with white, the outer pair of rectrices imperfectly barred distally with buffy white, the middle pair broadly barred on inner webs with pure white; a white postocular spot; rump and upper tail-coverts white, somewhat spotted and barred with black; lower parts olive gray, deepest on breast, whitish on crissum, and barred with black on all posterior portions; middle of abdomen carmine; lining of wing mottled black and white.

Adult female similar, but crown black, buffy white on anterior middle part.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 115 mm.; tail, 61; exposed culmen, 23.5; tarsus, 21.

Remarks.—*Zebrapicus pucherani* was described by Malherbe (Revue et Magasin de Zoologie, 1849, 542) from "Tabago" (*lege* Tobago), a locality where the species is not known to occur. The later description and plate by the same author (Monographie des Piciidées, II, 1862, 227, Pl. 103, figs. 1, 2), however, seems to apply better to the form inhabiting Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, which is characterized mainly by the less amount of white on the back, wings, and tail, this color being very prominent in the northern bird, giving a decidedly barred effect to the

upper parts. The South American bird may possibly belong to a third form, judging from the only skin available (No. 101,297, U. S. National Museum, Guayaquil, Ecuador), which may be the true *pucherani*, but in any case the bird occurring from Honduras northward to southern Mexico is subspecifically separable. The differences are obvious even in young birds, as may be seen by comparing two such specimens as Nos. 192,800, U. S. National Museum, Carrillo, Costa Rica, and 112,582, Truxillo, Honduras, September 27, 1887, both in fresh juvenal dress. Care must be taken in making comparisons to choose specimens in the same state of plumage, for the white spots and edgings wear away more readily than the black areas, as in other woodpeckers. Many of the Mexican specimens examined are in poor plumage, and consequently fail to show the distinctive characters to the best advantage.

The form under consideration is evidently that which, according to Malherbe (*l. c.*), had been provisionally designated as *melanotis* by Dr. Sclater in 1857, but this name is, of course, a pure *nomen nudum*.



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