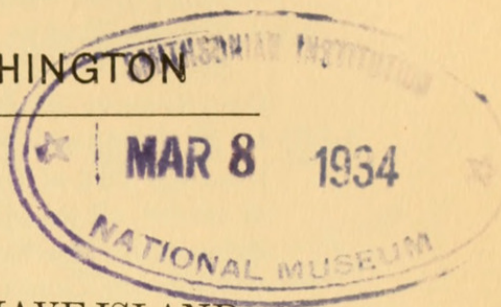


PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW SPECIES OF PICULET FROM GONAVE ISLAND.¹

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

On recent examination of the series of birds of the genus *Nesocittes* in the National Museum collections, it is apparent that there is a distinct species on Gonave Island, a division of the Republic of Haiti, which may be known as

Nesocittes abbotti, sp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Nesocittes micromegas* (Sundevall)² but very much paler both above and below; under surface white, with only a very faint tinge of yellowish on the breast; upper surface much grayer; yellow of crown in male more restricted; white of sides of neck more extended.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 251,504, male, collected on Gonave Island, Haiti, February 24, 1918, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Dorsal surface varying from deep grayish olive on sides of crown, hind neck and upper back to light Andover green on rump and upper tail-coverts; center of crown orange rufous, surrounded by an area of olive yellow, somewhat paler anteriorly with tips of some of the feathers flecked with dusky; rectrices and remiges dusky externally edged broadly with a wash of light yellowish olive; auricular region white, streaked with deep grayish olive; sides of neck and hindneck flecked obscurely with whitish to form an indistinct broken collar; lores, ramal region, and under surface, white; throat immaculate, remainder of under parts streaked (brokenly) and spotted with blackish; breast with a very faint tinge of yellow; inner margins of under surface of wing feathers washed with cream buff to cartridge buff. Bill blackish, becoming deep olive gray at the base; tarsus and toes castor gray (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—8 males, wing, 65.9-68.4 (67.7); tail, 36.5-42.8 (39.5); culmen from base, 15.8-17.2 (16.5); tarsus, 17.0-18.3 (17.4).

6 females, wing, 69.3-73.2 (71.2); tail, 37.0-41.5 (39.9); culmen from base, 17.0-17.7 (17.5); tarsus, 17.3-18.5 (17.8).

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²*Picumnus micromegas* Sundevall, Consp. Av. Pic., 1866, p. 95. ("Rio de Janeiro"= Hispaniola.)

Type, male, wing, 68.0; tail, 42.8; culmen from base, 16.5; tarsus, 17.9.

Range.—Gonave Island, Haiti.

Remarks.—This species is described from a series of fourteen skins from Gonave Island, collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott from February 21 to 27, 1918, and March 8 to 14, 1920. It is distinguished at a glance from the bird of the main island of Hispaniola of which there is a series of twelve, all taken by Dr. Abbott, at hand for comparison. The females differ as do the males.

While the Gonave bird is representative of *micromegas*, the differences separating it seem sufficient to warrant designating it as a distinct species. I take pleasure in naming it for Dr. W. L. Abbott in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of the Hispaniolan avifauna.



Wetmore, Alexander. 1928. "A new species of piculet from Gonave Island." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 41, 167–168.

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