

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

No previous records. On 19 September 1980, at the mouth of the Belait River, 6 were seen resting on a sand-bank with *Sterna albifrons* and *Pluvialis dominica*. 5 were in winter and one in summer plumage. They remained until the tide came in and then left the area.

DUSKY CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo concolor*

No previous records. On 1 July 1980, at the mouth of the Tutong River, one was seen hawking in company with *H. tabitica*. It was darker than the northern species, *H. rupestris*, with uniform dark underparts and only barely discernible white spots on the tail. In autumn 1980, T. C. White and J. R. Neighbour observed a dark-coloured crag martin on the Tutong River, probably *concolor*. These 2 records need confirmation, but no other species fits the descriptions, and in any case the occurrence of a crag martin species in Borneo is in itself noteworthy as none has been seen there before.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Erithacus calliope*

No previous records. On 8 March and 15 October 1980, one adult male (possibly the same bird) was observed by S. Eden, on both occasions staying for 2 weeks, feeding in a mature garden at Panaga, sometimes approaching to within a metre of the house.

PIED BUSHCAT *Saxicola caprata*

Known previously only from 2 undated specimens of unknown origin (Smythies 1981). On 23 December 1970, J. Collman closely observed a female in a garden in Kuala Belait. Detailed notes of plumage were made, in particular the absence of any distinguishing markings characteristic of other *Saxicola* species possible in the area.

Acknowledgements: We are indebted to D. R. Wells, of the University of Malaysia, for advising us on the current status and for critically examining the descriptions of many species, and also to Dr S. J. Tyler for checking and commenting on this paper.

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A new subspecies of *Mecocerculus leucophrys* from Venezuela

by Robert W. Dickerman

Received 19 October 1984

Two subspecies of the White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* are currently recognized from the tepuis (flat-topped isolated mountains) of southern Venezuela: *roraimae* (type locality Cerro Roraima) Hellmayr (1921), and *parui* (known only from Cerro Paru, Territorio Amazonas) Phelps &

Phelps (1950). Recently while surveying specimens from southern Venezuela in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History in preparation for field work on Cerro Neblina, I realized that the series of specimens from Cerro Duida was distinctive and represented an undescribed subspecies. This may now be known as

***Mecocerculus leucophrys chapmani* subsp. nov.**

Holotype. Adult male, No. 271,226 in American Museum of Natural History, New York. Collected "Cumbre 13, Desfiladero" 6200 feet, Cerro Duida, Territorio Amazonas, Venezuela, on 1 February 1929 by the Olalla Brothers Alphonse and Ramon (see Chapman 1931).

Description. Similar to *M.l. parui* but richer yellow on the belly. Darker dorsally than *roraimae*, slightly browner, less olive; breast band slightly more distinct and more olive, less greyish.

Range. Known only from Cerro Duida and adjacent Cerro Marahuaca.

Specimens examined. *M.l. roraimae*. DEPARTAMENTO BOLIVAR: Cerro Roraima 49, Cerro Cuquenán (=Kukenán in Chapman 1931) 3, Uei-tepui 1, Mesetas de Jaua and Sarisarinama 17. TERRITORIO AMAZONAS: Cerro Neblina (some labeled "Jime") 9 (other specimens were examined in the Phelps Collection, but were not compared in detail), Cerro Yavi 8, Cerro Huachamaquare 5, Cerro Guaiquinina 3.

M.l. chapmani. TERRITORIO AMAZONAS: Cerro Duida 30, Cerro Marahuaca 2.

M.l. parui. TERRITORIO AMAZONAS: Cerro Paru 9 (including type).

Remarks. Chapman (1931: 94) noted that the Duidan specimens averaged "... slightly darker above, and the crown in some examples is deeper in tone than the back ..." than in topotypes of *roraimae*, but did not consider this worth recognizing at the subspecific level. This is understandable in view of the levels of differences Chapman was describing at that time. However, the distinctness of the series from Cerro Duida is obvious on gross observation of the specimens in the museum tray. Further, Chapman was unaware of the extent of variation within species yet to be described both between the eastern tepuis of the Gran Savanna, and the western tepuis of the Amazonas region, and among the tepuis of those respective regions. It is appropriate to name a tepui form for Dr Chapman in tribute to his early and brilliant analysis of the origin of the avifauna of the region.

M.l. parui was described as being darker dorsally than *roraimae*. Only one of 9 *parui* is darker dorsally than the series of *chapmani*, and *parui* would be used for the Cerro Duida - Cerro Marahuaca populations except for the markedly paler venters of *parui*.

Thus in the western portion of the pantepui region we find 2 isolated populations on Cerros Paru and Duida-Marahuaca respectively that have differentiated from the surrounding and widespread *roraimae* stock. It should be noted that series of the species are not yet available from several high tepuis of the western region.

The above description was prepared from specimens collected 1925 (*roraimae*) 1929 (*chapmani*) and 1949 (*parui*). Two topotypes (and possibly paratypes) collected 10 and 30 August 1883 on Cerro Roraima by H. Whitely are obviously foxed dorsally (but not ventrally) and are browner than the large series of topotypes collected in 1927. Comparison of specimens collected on Cerro Neblina February-April 1984 with specimens collected 1954 and 1967

revealed a considerable degree of foxing in both of the earlier series. Further, it should be noted that an immature from Cerro Neblina, aged by the author, is considerably paler ventrally, (and thus is like *parui*) than 2 adults collected at the same site by the author. Thus, this species is one in which comparisons must be made with specimens collected in comparable year periods, and of comparable age.

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The first record of the Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* for Thailand

by Jarujin Nabhitabhata & Nivesh Nadee

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During a faunal survey of lowland semi-evergreen forest at Ban Ao Ko, Tha Chang District, Surat Thani Province, peninsular Thailand (9°20'N, 98°55'E), a specimen of the Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* was collected on 24 September 1983, the first record for Thailand. The bird was trapped in a mist net placed in the understorey of streamside, "gallery" forest at c. 50 m a.s.l. The specimen (No. TNRC 53-5091) was deposited in the National Reference Collection in the Ecological Research Division of the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Bangkok.

A large, robust flycatcher with a dark brown breast band, *R. brunneata* may be distinguished from the similar Fulvous-breasted Flycatcher *R. olivacea* and the Grey-chested Flycatcher *R. umbratilis*, both of which are residents in peninsular Thailand, by its yellowish, instead of dark, lower mandible. Identification was confirmed by comparison with a specimen of *R. brunneata* collected from Mt Brinchang, Malaysia by H. E. McClure.

Rhinomyias brunneata breeds "from S. Kiangsu, S. Honan and Chekiang through Fukien and Kiangsi to Kwangtung" in SE China (Meyer de Schauensee 1984) and winters in West Malaysia and possibly Sumatra (Medway & Wells 1976). It is the only one of the eight *Rhinomyias* spp. which is known to be migratory (Vaurie 1952).

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