Vol. 65, pp. 135-136 August 5, 1952

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW FORM OF HUMMINGBIRD FROM THE PERIJA MOUNTAINS OF VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA

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From the higher elevations of the Sierra de Perijá on the northern boundary between the republics of Venezuela and Colombia we have four specimens of a hummingbird that represent an interesting link between *Coeligena eos* (Gould) of the Sierra de Mérida in northwestern Venezuela and *C. bonapartei* (Boissonneau) of the western slope of the eastern Andes in the Bogotá region of Colombia. The form in question, which is new to science, may be known as

Coeligena bonapartei consita subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Coeligena bonapartei eos* (Gould[1]) but with brown spot on secondaries slightly smaller; tail green throughout instead of partly hazel; chin and throat much less spotted with iridescent green; lower breast and side more extensively green, and under tail coverts spotted with iridescent green.

Description.—Type, Phelps coll. no. 54415, (on deposit in the U. S. National Museum), female, southeastern base of Cerro Tetarí, at 2900 meters elevation, Sierra de Perijá, Zulia, Venezuela, taken April 21, 1952 by R. Urbano. Crown and hindneck iridescent cerro green; upper back and lesser, middle and primary wing coverts irridescent oil green; lower back somewhat lighter, with bronze reflections that merge with with the iridescent reddish bronze of the rump and upper tail coverts; secondaries cinnamon, tipped slightly with fuscous; primaries fuscous, the outer one edged lightly with yellow ocher; rectrices bronze green, the outer one on each side tipped and edged on outer web with vinaceous buff; chin, throat and side of head below lores from center of eye to base of mandible cinnamon buff, with small, scattered spots of iridescent oil green along lateral and posterior borders; foreneck, sides of neck and upper breast iridescent oil green, the feathers dull whitish basally; lower breast, sides and flanks lighter iridescent green with bronzy reflections; abdomen and under tail coverts cinnamon-buff, the latter iridescent green centrally; edge of wing pinkish cinnamon; outer under wing coverts shining oil green; inner under wing coverts and axillars cinnamon. Bill black; lower tarsus and toes fuscous.

Measurements.—4 females, wing 72.0-75.9 (73.8), tail 41.5-44.6 (43.5), culmen from base 30.4-32.5 mm.

Type, female, wing 72.0, tail 44.1, culmen from base 31.0mm.

Range.—Higher elevations of the Sierra de Perijá at 2900 meters

[1] *Helianthea Eos* Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 16, April 13, 1848, p. 11, pl. 1. ("Highlands of New Grenada and Venezuela." herein restricted to the higher elevations of the Sierra de Mérida, Venezuela.)

on Cerro Tetarí, Zulia, Venezuela, and at 2900 meters on the base of the southern Teta above Hiroca, Magdalena, Colombia.

Remarks.—This hitherto unknown form is described from three specimens in the Phelps collection taken by R. Urbano March 31, April 2, and April 21, 1952 on the Cerro Tetarí on the Venezuelian side of the Perijá range, and one from the western slope in Colombia, near the base of the southern Teta above Hiroca, collected by M. A. Carriker, Jr., May 4, 1942. All are females, the male being as yet unknown. The following discussion of forms therefor concerns females only.

In the diagnosis comparison has been made solely with *Coeligena bonapartei eos* as the form most closely related. From *Coeligena bonapartei bonapartei* (Boissonneau) the new race differs in having the secondaries brown forming a distinct spot; the crown and back slightly lighter, more bronzy green; the throat and under tail coverts paler brown; and the abdomen slightly less iridescent green. The three birds under discussion are strikingly similar in general appearance, and in the total sum of their characters evidently are closely related and of the same general stock.

The general structure in the three is identical, as is the size. The light brown secondaries that form a prominent mark on the wings of *eos* and *consita* seem at first glance to be a prominent difference in pattern that might set these two apart as a distinct species. On careful examination of the series of *bonapartei* at hand we find that while most have the secondaries fuscous like the primaries occasional specimens show a slight mixture of brown in the concealed portion of the secondary feathers, indicating a slight intergradation in this character. These are trade skins so that the locality is not known, but it appears that they must be considered sufficient approach to the other two to warrant placing all three under the same specific name.

The collection of males of *C. b. consita* will be awaited with interest. We may hope also sometime for material from the Cordillera Oriental, and from the southern Sierra de Perijá in the region controlled by groups of Motilone Indians, who at present do not permit strangers to enter, that will demonstrate more clearly intergradation with *bonapartei.*

Material examined (all females):

Coeligena bonapartei eos.—Sierra de Mérida, Venezuela; 2. Páramo La Culata; 1, Páramo El Morro; 1, Montañas Sierra; 6, Páramo El Escorial.

Coeligena bonapartei consita.—Sierra de Perijá; 3, 2900 meters on Cerro Tetarí, Zulia, Venezuela; 1, 2900 meters above Hiroca, Magdalena, Colombia.

Coeligena bonapartei bonapartei.—Cordillera Oriental, Colombia; 1, El Peñon, above Fusagasuga, Cundinamarca; 20, Bogotá trade skins.