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TWO NEW SPECIES OF TANAGER FROM PERU

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The diversity of birdlife inhabiting the eastern slopes of the Andes and adjacent lowlands of Peru is perhaps without equal among comparable areas of the world. In recent years additional species have been recorded there with astonishing frequency through discovery both of undescribed forms and of the presence of birds not previously reported in Peru. Researchers of Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSU), under the direction of George H. Lowery, Jr., have made major contributions to this new knowledge, as have those of the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), in continuation of the Peruvian studies that were initiated by John Todd Zimmer in 1922. Among the most recent additions to the avifauna of Peru are two colorful and strikingly distinct new tanagers (see frontispiece) collected for FMNH by the junior author and his Peruvian assistant, Manuel Villar. Specimens of both new tanagers were subsequently taken by Dr. Lowery's collectors and were made available to us for this study. In our descriptions the arc of the wing is measured, and the culmen length is from the base.

Hemispingus rufosuperciliaris sp. nov.

RUFOUS-BROWED HEMISPINGUS

HOLOTYPE.—Adult ♂ (LSU 74,727), Bosque Huaylaspampa, Depto. Huánuco, Peru, elevation approximately 8,400 ft; collected on 18 July 1973 by D. A. Tallman (original number 1524).

DIAGNOSIS.—Nearest *H. goeringi* in general appearance but appreciably larger, more richly colored below, and superciliaries uniform cinnamon-rufous rather than white.

DISTRIBUTION.—Presently known only from the temperate zone of central Peru (ca. 8,400 to 10,000 ft) in the Acomayo-Carpish Ridge region of Depto. Huánuco.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLOTYPE.—Top of head and nape pure black, bordered laterally by a broad cinnamon-rufous stripe that forms very prominent superciliaries; lores, orbital region, and auriculars to sides of neck black, the upperparts otherwise deep slate, darkest on the remiges (both webs) and tail; throat, breast, sides, and most of the abdomen uniform cinnamon-rufous, this replaced by dark gray slightly tinged with brown on the lower abdomen, undertail coverts, flanks, and tibiae; under surface of wings dull black,



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TWO NEW SPECIES FROM PERU

(above) RUFOUS-BROWED HEMISPINGUS, *Hemispingus rufosuperciliaris*
(below) GOLDEN-BACKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER, *Buthraupis aureodorsalis*
From a watercolor painting by John P. O'Neill (1/2 X)

the coverts somewhat lighter, more grayish. Iris, tarsi and toes "brown;" maxilla black; mandible blue-gray, lightest at tip. Skull ossified. Wing 72 mm; tail 65; culmen 15; tarsus 30; weight 30 g.

MEASUREMENTS.—5 ♂♂, wing 69–72 mm (mean 71.0); tail 61–67 (64.6); culmen 14–15 (14.6); tarsus 28–31 (29.2) mm. 7 ♀♀, wing 68–71 (69.8); tail 63–67 (65.0); culmen 13–15 (14.4); tarsus 28–31 (28.8) mm. Weights, 2 ♂♂ 30, 31 g (31.5); 4 ♀♀ 26–29 (27.5).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—Field Museum of Natural History: 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Huaylaspampa; 1 ♀, Torre Huasi. Louisiana State Museum of Zoology: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Huaylaspampa; 1 ♂, Bosque Huaylaspampa; 1 ♂ (injected), 2 ♀, Bosque Cutirragra, south of Huaylaspampa; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Bosque Magrapampa, below Zapatagocha; 1 ♀, between Zapatagocha and Huaylaspampa.

REMARKS.—The species of *Hemispingus* vary widely in color and pattern, and with few exceptions their relationships are uncertain. The new species and *H. (atropileus) calophrys* of La Paz, Bolivia, alone have rufous superciliaries; in other respects *rufosuperciliaris* appears to be more closely allied to the white-browed, gray- or grayish-backed assemblage of species with more or less strongly rufescent underparts, especially the geographically distant *H. goeringi* of northwestern Venezuela. Similarities to *H. melanotis* are much less striking, and in our opinion the relationships might best be indicated by placing *rufosuperciliaris* between *goeringi* and *verticalis* in the linear arrangement of Storer (1970).

The sexes are similar in all of the known species of *Hemispingus* and there is little individual variation in the type series of *rufosuperciliaris*. The colorful superciliaries, said to be strikingly conspicuous even in life, encroach on the black of the anterior crown in several specimens of the series, but this may be due in part to the "make" of the skin. There is also some variation in the extent of dusky coloration on the abdomen. The iris is described variously as brown, dark brown, or dark red-brown; the tarsi and toes of fresh specimens brown, grayish brown, chocolate brown, dark brown, or black. The feet of dried specimens are blackish.

Virtually all now known about the Rufous-browed *Hemispingus* in life is from the observations of John P. and Carol S. O'Neill, Dan A. and Erika J. Tallman, and Ronald J. Louque, all students at Louisiana State University. We are indebted to Dr. J. P. O'Neill for the following summary of combined observations, made over a period of several months in 1973.

"The new *Hemispingus* was fairly common and was seen almost every day by at least one member of the party. It inhabits the upper limits of the elfin forest but usually avoids areas where the trees are wind-stunted and mixed with grassland. It prefers places where there are thickets of ferns mixed with *Chusquea* bamboo and small bushes located near or within 'tall' elfin forest. Although occasionally seen alone, it usually travelled with groups of *Basileuterus luteoviridis* and/or *Cinnycerthia peruana*. It was never seen

more than six feet above the ground. Large groups of mixed species never contained more than two individuals of the new tanager. This contrasts with *Hemispingus atropileus*, one of the most common birds of the area, which often accompanied mixed species flocks, but travelled in groups often numbering up to a dozen individuals of that species. Within the mountain massif in which the new bird was taken, but at various elevations, we collected all other species of *Hemispingus* known to occur in Peru except the recently described *H. parodii* (Weske and Terbourgh, 1974)."

The observations of Manuel Villar, collector of six of the thirteen known specimens, differ in some details. According to Villar, this species is a forest bird that prefers the tops of the tallest trees (30–35 ft), where it searches for insects among the outermost branches and leaves, much in the manner of *H. atropileus*.

Buthraupis aureodorsalis sp. nov.

GOLDEN-BACKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER

HOLOTYPE.—Adult ♂ (FMNH 296,538), Quilluacocha, Depto. Huánuco (Acomayo), Peru, elevation approximately 11,500 ft; collected on 2 October 1973 by Peter Hocking and Manuel Villar (original No. 1308).

DIAGNOSIS.—Similar to *Buthraupis eximia* (Andes south to Ecuador) in the deep blue coloration of crown and lesser wing coverts and in the black sides of head, throat and breast. Differs most conspicuously from all known species of the genus in having a bright, orange-yellow back and rump, elongated chestnut spots or streaks on the yellow of the abdomen and sides, and bright chestnut under-tail coverts (cinnamomeous in *eximia*) and tibiae.

DISTRIBUTION.—Confined, so far as known, to central Peru in the Acomayo-Carpish Ridge region of the Depto. Huánuco, at elevation of 10,500 to 11,500 ft.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLOTYPE.—Entire crown and nape deep purplish blue, approximating Cyanine or Helvetia Blue of Ridgway (1912). Throat, breast, and sides of head to upper level of eyes black, this extending to the sides of the neck and across the mantle as a broad, distinct band; back, scapulars, rump, and upper-tail coverts bright orange-yellow, with sparse, rather obscure dusky and brownish markings; lesser wing coverts blue like the crown, the wings and tail otherwise pure black; abdomen, sides and flanks bright orange-yellow like the back, the two first boldly marked with bright chestnut, elliptical spots and streaks (diminishing in size and prominence posteriorly); under-tail coverts, tibiae, and lower belly chestnut; axillaries immaculate yellow; under surface of wings black, except for a small patch of yellow on the outer edge of the carpus. Iris dark brown; bill black or blackish, lightest below; tarsus "dark gray," appearing black. Wing 126 mm; tail 95; culmen 21; width of mandible at gape 14; tarsus 36.

MEASUREMENTS.—5 ♂♂, wing 123–130 mm (mean 125.8); tail 95–102 (98.5); culmen 18–21 (19.6); width of mandible at gape 12–15 (13.2); tarsus 34–38 (36.0). 2 ♀♀, wing 121, 123; tail 94, 98; culmen 20, 22; width of mandible at gape 12, 14; tarsus 34, 36.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—Field Museum of Natural History: 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Quilluacocha, northwest of Acomayo; 2 ♂♂, Sariapunta (10,500 ft), above Llancomagon. Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology: 1 ♀, Quilluacocha.

REMARKS.—As with other species of *Buthraupis*, the sexes of *aureodorsalis* are indistinguishable. Individual variation in the type series is minimal, being reflected primarily in the relative warmth (orange infusion) of the yellow areas, and especially in the relative profusion and prominence of the chestnut ventral markings. Although nearest *eximia* in size and sharing with it several characteristics of color and plumage pattern, the striking dissimilarities of *aureodorsalis* set it apart as a distinct species. It is clearly more closely related to the assemblage of relatively large, solely montane South American species of the genus (*montana*, *eximia*, *wetmorei*) than to any of the five species that comprise the “*Bangsia*” complex of *Buthraupis* as revised by Storer (1970). In consideration primarily of the plumage characteristics of each, we recommend placing *aureodorsalis* tentatively between *eximia* and *wetmorei*.

The belated discovery of so large a bird of notably conspicuous plumage may indicate an extremely restricted range and specialized habitat. According to Manuel Villar, who alone is known to have observed this tanager in life, *B. aureodorsalis* is restricted to the small, scattered islands of elfin forest that dot the *pajonal* above the main forests inhabited by *B. montana*. It seems to prefer the largest leafy trees of an unidentified species with tough oval leaves about an inch long. It is said to be quiet, rather tame, and usually found in pairs.

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