

A SYNOPSIS OF THE RACES OF THE GUIANA FLYCATCHER,
MYIARCHUS FEROX (GMELIN).

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The present status of the forms of *Myiarchus ferox* (Gmelin) seems not to be wholly satisfactory. The following notes are offered as an attempt to aid in their elucidation, and also to call attention to the need of more definite information regarding the various subspecies, particularly their geographic distribution.

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The geographic distribution of *Myiarchus ferox* as a species extends from Costa Rica and the Island of Tobago south through the continent of South America to northern Argentina. At present four subspecies are current: *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, *Myiarchus ferox venezuelensis*, *Myiarchus ferox panamensis*, and *Myiarchus ferox actiosus*. An additional race, *Myiarchus ferox insulicola*, has been recently described by Messrs. Hellmayr and von Seilern; and two others, *Myiarchus ferox cantans* and *Myiarchus ferox phaeocephalus*, have been recognized. In addition to these we find it necessary to add another, *Myiarchus ferox ferocior* Cabanis, making now a total of eight subspecies. The bird known as *Myiarchus cephalotes* Taczanowski, which some authors suppose to be a subspecies of *Myiarchus ferox*, is without much doubt a distinct species.

MYIARCHUS FEROX FEROX (Gmelin).

[*Muscicapa*] *ferox* GMELIN, Syst. Nat., vol. I, part 2, 1789, p. 934 (Cayenne; based primarily on *Tyrannus cayanaensis* Brisson, Ornith., vol. II, 1760, p. 398).

Subspecific characters.—Size moderate; upper parts dark and olivaceous; gray of throat and yellow of posterior lower parts also of a rather deep shade.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 85.5–88 mm.; tail, 86–89; exposed culmen, 19.

Female: wing, 82.5–86 mm.; tail, 83–88; exposed culmen, 18–19.

Type locality.—Cayenne.

Geographic distribution.—French Guiana, British Guiana, Trinidad,

eastern Venezuela, and northern Brazil south to the Amazon valley and west at least to the Madeira River.

REMARKS.—This, the typical form of the species, was originally described by Gmelin as *Muscicapa ferox*,¹ based chiefly on the *Tyrannus cayanensis* of Brisson.² This is without doubt the species now known as *Myiarchus ferox*, so that the proper application of the name *ferox* to this species is clear and the currently accepted designation correct. This, with the exception of *Myiarchus ferox insulicola*, is the darkest race of the species. The exact limits of its geographic distribution remain, however, yet to be determined.

MYIARCHUS FEROX INSULICOLA Hellmayr and von Seilern.

Myiarchus ferox insulicola HELLMAYR and VON SEILERN, Verh. Ornith. Gesell. Bayern, vol. XII, Heft 3, July 25, 1915, p. 202 (Man-o'-War Bay, Tobago Island).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, but wing and tail much longer; bill stouter; upper parts darker and more grayish (less greenish); throat and jugulum darker; and rusty margins of the rectrices more conspicuous.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 94 mm.; tail, 94; exposed culmen, 21.

Type locality.—Man-o'-War Bay, Island of Tobago, West Indies.

Geographic distribution.—Island of Tobago.

REMARKS.—This recently described subspecies is very distinct from *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, and is the darkest race of the species. It seems to be confined to the Island of Tobago.

MYIARCHUS FEROX VENEZUELENSIS Lawrence.

Myiarchus venezuelensis LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vol. XVII, February, 1865, p. 38 (Venezuela).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, but upper parts lighter and more grayish or brownish.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 84–87 mm.; tail, 86–89; exposed culmen, 17.

Female: wing, 80–84 mm.; tail, 81–86; exposed culmen, 16.5–17.5.

Type locality.—Venezuela.

Geographic distribution.—Middle and western Venezuela, west to central Colombia.

REMARKS.—This bird, originally described as a distinct species, is without doubt a subspecies of *Myiarchus ferox*, and its representative in western Venezuela and eastern Colombia.

¹ Syst. Nat., vol. I, part 2, 1789, p. 934.

² Ornith., vol. II, 1760, p. 398.

MYIARCHUS FEROX PANAMENSIS Lawrence.

Myiarchus Panamensis Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., vol. VII, 1862 (May, 1860), p. 284 (Isthmus of Panama).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox venezuelensis*, but larger; upper parts lighter and more grayish (less brownish), particularly on head and neck; yellow of lower parts paler.

*Measurements.*¹—Male: wing, 87–96.5 mm.; tail, 80.5–93.5; exposed culmen, 17.5–21.

Female: wing, 88.5–100.5 mm.; tail, 84–96; exposed culmen, 19–22.

Type locality.—Canal Zone, Panama.

Geographic distribution.—Panama and western Colombia.

REMARKS.—This flycatcher is clearly but a subspecies of *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, being connected with that form through *Myiarchus ferox venezuelensis*.

MYIARCHUS FEROX ACTIOSUS Ridgway.

Myiarchus ferox actiosus RIDGWAY, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. XIX, September 6, 1906, p. 116 (Pigres, mouth of the Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox panamensis*, but with upper parts anteriorly more grayish, posteriorly darker and paler, and yellow of lower surface paler.

*Measurements.*¹—Male: wing, 92–97 mm.; tail, 85.5–91; exposed culmen, 18.5–21.5.

Female: wing, 89.5–95.5 mm.; tail, 85.5–91; exposed culmen, 18.5–21.5.

Type locality.—Pigres, mouth of the Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica.

Geographic distribution.—Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

REMARKS.—This seems to be a well-differentiated race, distinguished from *Myiarchus ferox panamensis* as above noted, but it seems to be confined to Costa Rica.

MYIARCHUS FEROX PHAEOCEPHALUS Selater.

Myiarchus phaeocephalus SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1860, p. 281 (Babahoyo, western Ecuador).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox actiosus*, but gray of head and neck not so much tinged with olive brown; yellow of lower parts darker.

Type locality.—Babahoyo, western Ecuador.

Geographic distribution.—Ecuador and Peru.

¹ Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, pt. IV, 1907, p. 641.

REMARKS.—This rather well differentiated subspecies is apparently the representative of the *Myiarchus ferox* group in Ecuador and Peru, but its limits of distribution are at present undefined. It is of interest to note, however, that in color it much more closely resembles the Costa Rican *Myiarchus ferox actiosus* than it does the intervening *Myiarchus ferox panamensis*.

MYIARCHUS FEROX FEROCIOR Cabanis.

Myiarchus ferocior CABANIS, Journ. f. Ornith., vol. XXXI, No. 162, April, 1883, p. 214 (Tucuman, Argentina).

Subspecific characters.—Similar in size to *Myiarchus ferox ferox*, but upper parts lighter and more brownish (less greenish) olive; gray of throat lighter.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 90 mm.; tail, 89; exposed culmen, 19. Female: wing, 85 mm.; tail, 86; exposed culmen, 16.5.

Type locality.—Tucuman, northern Argentina.

Geographic distribution.—Northern Argentina and Paraguay, with probably also Bolivia and southwestern Brazil.

REMARKS.—This seems to be a recognizable race, differing from both *Myiarchus ferox ferox* of Guiana and *Myiarchus ferox swainsoni* of southeastern Brazil. No specimens have been examined from southwestern Brazil or from Bolivia, but in all probability this is the form of the species that occupies those areas. Further investigation, however, must settle this point.

MYIARCHUS FEROX SWAINSONI Cabanis and Heine.

M[yiarchus]. *Swainsoni* CABANIS and HEINE, Mus. Hein., part 2, September 30, 1859, p. 72 (Brazil).

Myiarchus cantans PELZELN, Ornith. Bras., 1869, pp. 117, 182. (Rio Janeiro, Sapitiba, Ypanema, and Curytiba, Brazil) (type locality, Curytiba, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Myiarchus ferox ferocior*, but bill shorter, upper parts paler, somewhat more grayish, and more uniform, the pileum and auriculars not noticeably darker than the surrounding parts, as is the case in *Myiarchus ferox ferocior*.

DESCRIPTION.—Adult male, No. 177677, U. S. N. M.; San Carlos do Pinhal, September, 1895. Upper parts dark citrine drab, the darker centers of the crown feathers dull olive brown, and the upper tail-coverts slightly rufescent; tail warm fuscous, the outer webs of the outer pair of tail-feathers and the very narrow tips of all, pale brown; all but the exterior pair of rectrices basally edged with rufescent brown; wings fuscous, the tertials edged on the outer webs with buffy white, the pri-

maries and all the superior wing-coverts, excepting the primary coverts, margined with pale dull brown, these edgings darker and more rufescent on the lesser coverts; sides of head and neck like the upper parts, but somewhat more grayish; lores paler and somewhat buffy grayish; throat and jugulum pale smoke gray; lining of the wing barium yellow, somewhat clouded by brownish gray; remainder of lower parts pale primrose yellow.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 94.5 mm.; tail, 88; exposed culmen, 16.5.

Female: wing, 83.5 mm.; tail, 83.5; exposed culmen, 17.

Type locality.—Southeastern Brazil.

Geographic distribution.—Southeastern Brazil, north at least to Bahia, probably also to Pernambuco.

REMARKS.—This race has already been revived by Mr. Hellmayr,¹ under the name *Myiarchus ferox cantans*, and it apparently can be distinguished from both *Myiarchus ferox ferox* and *Myiarchus ferox ferocior*. From *Myiarchus ferox ferox* it differs in its smaller, paler bill, its much paler, more grayish or brownish (less greenish), and more uniform upper parts, and in its paler ventral surface. How far to the northwestward in Brazil it ranges remains yet to be determined.

Whenever recognized, this race has been known as *Myiarchus ferox cantans* Pelzeln, but it should apparently be called *Myiarchus ferox swainsoni*. Cabanis and Heine, in describing their *Myiarchus swainsoni*,² gave as its locality only Brazil, and they included in their literature citations also localities that belong under *Myiarchus ferox ferocior*; but the diagnosis is clearly applicable to the bird from southeastern Brazil, called later *Myiarchus cantans* by von Pelzeln.³ Since *Myiarchus swainsoni* Cabanis and Heine has several years' priority over *Myiarchus cantans* Pelzeln, it is the name that should be used for the present subspecies.

¹ Novit. Zool., vol. XVII, No. 3, December 15, 1910, p. 302.

² Mus. Hein., part 2, September 30, 1859, p. 72.

³ Ornith. Bras., 1869, pp. 117, 182.