

A SYNOPSIS OF THE SUBSPECIES OF ELECTRON
PLATYRHYNCHUM (LEADBEATER).

BY

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An incidental investigation of the typical form of *Electron*¹ *platyrhynchum* led to the discovery of an apparently new subspecies of this group. For better elucidation of its relationships the following synopsis of all the subspecies of *Electron platyrhynchum* may be useful. The names of colors used in this paper are from Mr. Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature." For the privilege of consulting material pertinent to the present study, the writer is indebted to the authorities of the United States National Museum.

ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM PLATYRHYNCHUM (Leadbeater).

[*Momotus*] *Platyrhynchus* LEADBEATER, Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., XVI, pt. 1, 1829, p. 92 ("Brazil"; errore pro western Ecuador).

Chars. subsp.—Size large; subterminal portion of middle tail-feathers without barbs; upper parts rather dark; lower parts tinged with bluish.

Description.—Pileum and cervix between chestnut and Sanford's brown; back between parrot green and grass green, shading into meadow green on the upper tail-coverts; tail prussian green, the edges of the feathers less bluish, their tips black; wings deep chaetura drab, the outer part of the upper surface of the quills meadow green, their edges less bluish, the outermost quills more bluish (near wall green); upper wing-coverts rather yellowish grass green; sides of head and of neck of the same color as the crown; chin between meadow green and grass green; throat and jugulum of the same shade as the crown, but paler; remaining lower parts meadow green, in places inclining to grass green; crissum darker; under wing-coverts drab, much washed outwardly with the green of the upper wing-coverts.

Measurements.—Wing, 121.5—130 mm.; tail, 188—223; exposed culmen, 36; tarsus, 20; middle toe without claw, 14.5.

Type locality.—Western Ecuador.²

Geographic distribution.—Western Ecuador and western Colombia.

Remarks.—Dr. E. Hartert has already shown³ that the type of *Momotus platyrhynchus* Leadbeater, though supposedly from Brazil, is really from Ecuador, as is plain from its large size and uncut central rectrices. As a matter of fact, the Brazilian bird is much nearer *Electron platyrhynchum pyrholacum*, as hereinafter shown.

¹For the use of this generic name in place of *Prionornis*, cf. Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, VI, 1914, p. 470.

²Here definitely designated.

³Novit. Zool., V., 1898, pp. 497-498.

ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM SUBOLES Nelson.

Electron platyrhynchus suboles NELSON, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. 60, No. 3, September 27, 1912, p. 5 ("Cana (at 2,000 feet altitude), eastern Panama").

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Electron platyrhynchum platyrhynchum*, but much smaller; pileum paler and duller; and chin more distinctly greenish.

Measurements.—Male (type): wing, 117 mm.; tail, 1771; exposed culmen, 42; tarsus, 18; middle toe without claw, 13.5.

Type locality.—Cana (altitude 2,000 feet) Darien, eastern Panama.

Geographic distribution.—Eastern Panama.

Remarks.—This form has a rather limited distribution in eastern Panama, and extends possibly to at least the lower Atrato Valley in northwestern Colombia, although birds from the upper part of this valley are *Electron platyrhynchum platyrhynchum*.

ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM MINOR (Hartert).

Prionirhynchus platyrhynchus minor HARTERT, Novit. Zool., V. No. 4, December 31, 1898, p. 498 ("Panama").

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Electron platyrhynchum suboles*, but bill relatively shorter and broader; green of upper parts duller, more olivaceous; and under parts less bluish.

Measurements.—Male: wing, 110—118 (average, 112.8) mm.; tail, 155—192 (171); exposed culmen, 35—40 (38.1); tarsus, 17—18.5 (17.8); middle toe without claw, 13—15.5 (15.1).

Female: wing, 106—116 (average, 110.9) mm.; tail, 151.5—186.5 (168.6); exposed culmen, 34—39 (36.5); tarsus, 16.5—18 (17.2); middle toe without claw, 13—15 (13.9).

Type locality.—Panama.

Geographic distribution.—Central America, east to Canal Zone in Panama, and west through Costa Rica to eastern Nicaragua.

ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM ORIENTICOLA, subsp. nov.

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Electron platyrhynchum platyrhynchum* from western Ecuador, but smaller; subterminal portions of middle rectrices entire; upper parts paler; the back and wings more yellowish; lower surface lighter, and posteriorly much less bluish (more yellowish or greenish).

Description.—Type, adult female, No. 177,039, United States National Museum; Hytaniha, just below the falls of the Purus River, Brazil, March 16, 1901; J. B. Steere. Pileum and cervix amber brown, verging toward Sanford's brown; back deep yellowish oil green, its lower part cerro green; upper tail-coverts between grass green and meadow green; tail prussian

¹By mistake given as 188 mm. by Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, VI, 1914, p. 474.

²From Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, VI, 1914, pp. 472-473.

green, the edges of the feathers less bluish, their tips black; wings deep chaetura drab, the edges of the upper surface of the feathers hay green, those of the primaries more bluish, the lesser coverts wholly cerro green; chin between biscay green and light bice green; sides of the neck like the crown; throat, jugulum, and upper breast of the same color, but lighter; remainder of the lower parts biscay green, anteriorly varying to bluish light bice green; crissum similar, but darker and duller; lining of wing light cinnamon, the edges of the wing mixed with bluish green: "eyes black."

Measurements.—Type: wing, 106.5 mm.; tail, 179; exposed culmen, 31.5; tarsus, 16.2; middle toe without claw, 13.

Type locality.—Hyutaniha, just below the falls of the Purus River, north-western Brazil.

Geographic distribution.—Northwestern Brazil, east to the Madeira River; west probably to eastern Ecuador; and north probably to central southern Colombia.

Remarks.—This new race is most closely allied to *Electron platyrhynchum pyrrolaemum*, with which it agrees in the condition of its middle tail-feathers, but from which it differs in its paler head, more yellowish back and upper surfaces of wings, and lighter, as well as posteriorly more yellowish or greenish (less bluish), lower surface. The bird recorded by Dr. C. E. Hellmayr from Humaytha on the Madeira River¹ belongs, of course, to this form. No specimens from eastern Ecuador have been examined, but the bird from this region is, without much doubt, referable here. The example from Florencia, central southern Columbia, which Dr. F. M. Chapman indicated as belonging to *Electron platyrhynchum pyrrolaemum*², is apparently very close to this new subspecies, if, indeed not identical.

ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM PYRRHOLAEMUM (Berlepsch and Stolzmann).

P[latyrhynchus], *p[latyrhynchus]*, *pyrrholaeus* BERLEPSCH and STOLZMANN, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1902, II, pt. 1, October, 1902, p. 35, in text ("La Merced, Borgoña", [central Peru]).

Electron platyrhynchum medianum TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, August 8, 1913, p. 174 ("Rio Turutu, Provence del Sara, Bolivia").

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Electron platyrhynchum orienticola*, but pileum darker, back and upper surface of wing less yellowish, and inferior surface darker, more bluish.

Measurements.—Wing, 114—117 mm.; tail, 188—190; exposed culmen, 34—37; tarsus, 14—18; middle toe without claw, 16.

Type locality.—La Merced, central Peru.³

Geographic distribution.—Peru and Bolivia.

¹Novit. Zool., XIV, No. 2, November 1, 1907, p. 403.

²Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXVII, 1917, p. 269.

³So given by Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, Novit. Zool., XIV, 1907, p. 403.

Remarks.—This race is apparently confined to Peru and Bolivia, since birds of this species from Brazil, Colombia, and probably eastern Ecuador, belong to other forms. The absence of raequets on the middle rectrices is evidently only a subspecific character, as this occurs sometimes in other races which normally have well-defined raequets.

The Bolivian bird has been described as a new race, *Electron platyrhynchum medianum*; which is similar to *Electron platyrhynchum pyrrolucum*, but is supposed to have the chin spot more bluish, the posterior under parts and exposed surfaces of remiges somewhat less bluish, and the rufescent areas of chest slightly darker and duller. These differences are apparently individual, an opinion in which Mr. Todd himself now concurs.

¹*Electron platyrhynchum medianum* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, August 8, 1913, p. 174 ("Rio Turutu, Province del Sara, Bolivia").