

***Philydor hylobius* Wetmore and Phelps is a Synonym of *Automolus roraimae* Hellmayr**

ROBERT W. DICKERMAN,¹ GEORGE F. BARROWCLOUGH,¹ PETER F. CANNELL,¹ WILLIAM H. PHELPS, JR.,²
AND DAVID E. WILLARD³

¹American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024 USA,

²Colección Ornitológica Phelps, Apartado Postal 2009, Caracas, Venezuela, and

³Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605 USA

Philydor hylobius Wetmore and Phelps (1956) was described on the basis of two specimens, a tail-less adult (type) and an "immature" (= juvenile), collected at 1,800 m on Cerro de la Neblina in extreme southern Venezuela in January 1956. The two specimens are numbers 461696 and 461697, respectively, in the collections of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. On the same trip 13 adult and 2 juvenile *Automolus roraimae duidae* (= *Automolus albicularis duidae* in the published list of birds collected on Cerro de la Neblina, Phelps and Phelps 1956) were collected. Mayr (1971) followed the describers and noted *hylobius* to be "Similar to and related to *P. atricapillus*." Mayr also cited a personal communication from C. Vaurie, who examined the two specimens of *hylobius*, and later wrote that it "... is only an isolated population of *P. atricapillus*, but not a distinct species" (Vaurie 1980). Note that the range of *P. atricapillus* along the southeastern coastal region of Brazil is approximately 2,700 km from Cerro de la Neblina!

In the ensuing years the Colección Ornitológica Phelps of Caracas obtained several additional collections from Cerro de la Neblina, but these included no new material of *P. hylobius*. During the period January 1984 to February 1985, eight ornithologists netted and collected extensively at elevations of over 1,200 m on Cerro de la Neblina. Twenty-three specimens of *A. roraimae* were obtained, but again, no additional specimens of *P. hylobius* were taken. In the field Barrowclough and Cannell noted that a juvenile *A. roraimae*, caught in the same mist net with its parent, resembled the description of *P. hylobius* in Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (1978). Both specimens were collected and the juvenile matched well two juvenile specimens of *A. roraimae* in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

This renewed our interest in the original specimens, and Dickerman compared the three juvenile *A. roraimae* (including the above juvenile from Cerro de la Neblina) with the juvenile *P. hylobius* in the National Museum. The juvenile *P. hylobius* was found to be inseparable from them. It also differed markedly from every juvenile specimen of *Philydor*

examined (see acknowledgments) in having weak dusky scalloped edgings on the ventral feathers. The juvenile plumage in all species of the genus *Philydor* is very similar to the basic plumage and lacks any ventral barring or scalloping.

The tail-less adult of *P. hylobius* was compared with an adult *A. roraimae*. They were inseparable in wing length, in bill shape, and in size of the tarsi and feet. We believe the type of *hylobius* is actually an erythristic specimen of *A. roraimae*. The description of the type exactly fits an adult *roraimae* except for the "tawny" rather than cream-colored superciliary line, and the "ochraceous-tawny" rather than creamy-buff throat. However, below the right eye of the type of *P. hylobius*, there is a small patch of pale feathers that matches the throat color of *A. roraimae*.

In the original description, the authors wrote that they considered the most closely related species to be *Philydor atricapillus*, but noted differences in the more slender bill and heavier feet of *hylobius*. Indeed, the tarsi and feet of *hylobius* are heavier than those of any species of *Philydor*, but match well species in the genus *Automolus*. Furthermore, the wing formula of both *A. roraimae* and the type of *P. hylobius* is $7 > 8 > 9 > 6 = 5 = 4 = 3 = 2 > 1 > 10$, while the wing formula of *P. atricapillus* is $6 > 7 > 8 > 9 > 5 > 4 > 3 = 2 = 1 > 10$. We also note that no species of *Philydor* has an all-dusky ear patch, as do *hylobius* and *roraimae*, without some pale feathers included within the dark auricular area.

Philydor hylobius Wetmore and Phelps should be considered a junior synonym of *Automolus roraimae* Hellmayr. With this action, Cerro de la Neblina has no endemic taxa of birds above the subspecific level.

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RESUMEN.—Una re-examinación de los dos especímenes conocidos de *Philydor hylobius*, ambos provenientes del Cerro de la Neblina en el sur de Venezuela, indicó que éstos pertenecen a *Automolus roraimae*. El tipo de *P. hylobius* corresponde a un adulto de *A. roraimae* con predominancia de pigmentación rojiza (eritrismo), y el otro espécimen es un juvenil típico. Por lo tanto, *Philydor hylobius* Wetmore and Phelps es un sinónimo junior de *Automolus roraimae* Hellmayr.

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