

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GEOGRAPHIC RACES
OF THE TINAMOU **CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS**
IN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE AND WILLIAM H. PHELPS, JR.

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Understanding of the relationships of the tinamous under discussion has been uncertain because the few specimens that have been available until now have served mainly to emphasize differences in the different geographic areas and to obscure the resemblances. Recent intensive field work has brought to hand excellent series from Colombia and Venezuela in the U. S. National Museum, and Venezuela in the Phelps Collection. With the nearly 50 skins that we have had before us from the two collections, we have arrived at a number of interesting conclusions that are outlined below. In this examination we have accepted allocation of the forms discussed under the specific name *noctivagus* in accordance with the treatment of Zimmer¹. The subspecies that we treat are in geographic order beginning at the west in Colombia.

CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS IDONEUS (Todd).

Crypturus idoneus Todd, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 32, June 27, 1919, p. 117 (Bonda, Magdalena, Colombia).

Distinctly grayer above and below, being definitely the grayest of the races under discussion.

Range: Northern Colombia, from Atlántico to the western Guajira, extending south in western Zulia, Venezuela, along the eastern base of the Sierra de Perijá from the Río Socuy to the region south of Machiques.

The series examined indicates that there are two slightly defined color phases, certain birds being somewhat more rufescent than others, though there is much individual variation so that the two groups are not clear cut. Birds from the northwestern part of the range in Atlántico and western Magdalena, Colombia, are slightly more rufescent than those from farther east. Likewise, the two from the Perijá area are darker than those from farther north. Perhaps other forms may be separated when additional specimens come to hand.

¹ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 51, March 18, 1938, p. 51.

CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS SPENCEI (Brabourne
and Chubb).

Crypturus cinnamomeus spencei Brabourne and Chubb, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 8, vol. 14, October, 1914, pp. 320, 322 ("Venezuela"; subsequently restricted to Caracas by Chubb²).

Differs from *idoneus* by being distinctly browner below, with the breast bright brown, instead of grayish; very slightly browner above.

Range: More open country of western and northern Venezuela, extending eastward to the llanos of Anzoátegui.

The specimens at hand agree closely with the original description so that we have no hesitation in applying this name here. Hellmayr and Conover³, following examination of the type by Hellmayr, placed this name in the synonymy of *C. n. erythropus*, which, in a sense, confirms Zimmer's and our action, since our series of *spencei* indicates that this race serves as the link to unite *idoneus*, by some considered a distinct species, with *erythropus*. The type specimen, in the British Museum (Natural History), was received from J. M. Spence, a resident of Caracas during the years 1871 and 1872. The birds listed from Cantaura, Anzoátegui, are those identified by Friedmann⁴ as *C. idoneus*. It is our belief that the egg in the U. S. National Museum, laid by one of these birds found injured beside a road, does not have the color fully developed because of the circumstances of injury to the parent.

CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS ERYTHROPUS (Pelzeln).

Tinamus erythropus Pelzeln, Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien, vol. 13, 1863, pp. 1127, 1129 (Barra do Rio Negro = Manaus, Brasil).

Similar to *C. n. spencei*, but definitely darker, more rufescent above and below, especially on the breast.

Range: More heavily forested areas of eastern and southern Venezuela (Monagas, Sucre, and northeastern Bolívar), south to the north bank of the Amazon, Brasil.

In this study we have not had available material from the area south of Venezuela. It is evident that this form as recognized here includes in part birds identified by Zimmer⁵ as *C. n. spencei*.

CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS MARGARITAE

Phelps and Phelps.

Crypturellus noctivagus margaritae Phelps and Phelps, Bol. Soc. Venezolana Cienc. Nat., vol. 11, no. 71, Oct-Dec., 1947, May., 1948), p. 57 (Cerro El Copey, Margarita Island, Venezuela).

2 Chubb, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 38, 1917, p. 29.

3 Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 1, no. 1, 1942, p. 62.

4 Friedmann and Smith, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 100, 1950, p. 428.

5 Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 51, March 18, 1938, pp. 50-51.

Similar to Venezuelan specimens of *C. n. erythropus* but upper back grayer; also smaller, a character not mentioned by the describers.

Range: Margarita Island, Venezuela.

Measurements of unflattened wings:

<i>C. n. margaritae</i>	3 ♂	145.5-152 (148.9)	mm.
<i>C. n. erythropus</i>	7 ♂	155-160 (157.7)	
<i>C. n. spencei</i>	3 ♂	159-161 (160)	
<i>C. n. margaritae</i>	1 ♀	151	mm.
<i>C. n. erythropus</i>	6 ♀	155-163 (159.8)	
<i>C. n. spencei</i>	2 ♀	162-165 (163.5)	

While this form is restricted properly to Margarita Island, birds from the mainland immediately adjacent show some approach to it in color of the back.

An egg of this form in the Phelps Collection in color is Ecreu Drab being similar to, but a little brighter, than one of *C. n. idoneus* in the U. S. National Museum (referred to above), which is Pale Drab-Gray.

CRYPTURELLUS NOCTIVAGUS DUIDAE Zimmer.

Crypturellus noctivagus duidae Zimmer, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 51, March 18, 1938, p. 48 (Campamento del Medio, altitude 350 feet, Cerro Duida, Territorio Amazonas, Venezuela).

Similar to *erythropus* but foreneck, as well as breast, rufous, without gray; head and neck more rufous; feet gray, instead of red.

Range: Territorio Amazonas, southern Venezuela, from Sanariapo and Caño Cuao, south along the Orinoco River to Cerro Duida.

While we have accepted Zimmer's and Friedmann's⁶ allocation of *duidae* as a race of *noctivagus* we wish to indicate that so far as available material shows it is quite distinct from all of the other known forms of that species in having the upper breast and lower foreneck rufous instead of some shade of gray. Also the unfaded color of the feet of fresh birds, as noted on the labels of Venezuelan specimens in the Phelps Collection, show that this is always gray in *duidae* ("pale gray", "gray" or "blue gray"), while in *erythropus*, *margaritae* and *idoneus* it is invariably reddish ("salmon", "pink", "rose", "orange red", "red", "lacquer red"). In the present condition of the specimens, however, it is practically impossible to separate *duidae* from the rest by the color of the feet which have now all dried to varying shades of an indefinite "horn color". Eventually *duidae* may prove to be a distinct species.

⁶ Friedmann, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 97, 1948, p. 382.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

- C. n. idoneus.**—COLOMBIA: Los Pendales, Atlántico⁷, 2 (?); Costa Rica, Magdalena⁷, 1 ♂; Camperucho, Magdalena⁷, 1 ♂; El Conejo, Magdalena, 2 ♂⁷, 1 ♂⁸, 1 ♀⁷; Bonda, Magdalena⁹, ♂ (type), 1 ♀; Carrapía, Guajira⁷, 2 ♂. VENEZUELA: Zulia: Río Socuy⁸, 1 ♂; Los Motilones¹⁰, 1 (?).
- C. n. spencei.**—VENEZUELA: Aragua: El Consejo⁷, 1 ♀; San Sebastián⁸, 1 ♂. Guárico: Santa María de Ipire⁸, 1 ♂, 2 ♀. Anzoátegui: Pariaguán⁸, 1 ♂; Cantaura⁷, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.
- C. n. margaritae.**—VENEZUELA⁸: Margarita Island: El Copey, 2 ♂ (inc. type), 1 ♀; El Valle, 1 ♂.
- C. n. erythropus.**—VENEZUELA: Monagas: Caicara⁷, 1 ♀. Sucre: Cristóbal Colón⁸, 2 ♂, 1 ♀. Bolívar⁸: Cerro Tomasote, 1 ♂; El Dorado, 1 ♀, 2 (?); Cerro Tigre, Río Chiguao, 4 ♂, 4 ♀.
- C. n. duidae.**—VENEZUELA: Terr. Amazonas: Sanariapo⁸, 1 (?); Caño Cuao⁸, 1 ♀; San Fernando de Atabapo⁸, 2 ♂, 3 ♀; Cerro Yapacana⁷, 2 ♂; "Campamento del Medio", Cerro Duida¹¹, 2 ♂; Playa del Río Base, Cerro Duida¹¹, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Valle de los Monos, Cerro Duida¹¹, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; "Middle Camp", Cerro Duida¹¹, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

7 Specimens in the U. S. National Museum, Washington.

8 Specimens in the Phelps Collection, Caracas.

9 Specimens in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

10 Specimen in the Pons Collection, Maracaibo.

11 Specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.



LIST OF LOCALITIES

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 10 | Caicara (Monagas) | 22 | Los Motilones |
| 20 | Campamento del Medio | 20 | "Middle Camp" |
| 9 | Cantaura | 8 | Pariaguán |
| 4 | Caracas | 21 | Playa del Río Base |
| 1 | Carriapia (Col.) | 18 | San Fernando de Atabapo |
| 12 | Cristóbal Colón | 6 | San Sebastián |
| 17 | Cuao, Caño | 16 | Sanariapo |
| 20 | Duida, Cerro | 7 | Santa María de Ipire |
| 5 | El Consejo (Ven.) | 3 | Socuy, Río |
| 2 | El Conejo (Col.) | 15 | Tigre, Cerro |
| 11 | El Copey, Cerro | 13 | Tomasote, Cerro |
| 14 | El Dorado | 20 | Valle de los Monos |
| 11 | El Valle (Margarita I.) | 19 | Yapacana, Cerro |