

ORNITHOLOGY.—*Description of a third form of curassow of the genus Pauxi.*¹
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Venezuela.

The genus *Pauxi* has been one of the least known of the interesting group of curassows in spite of the fact that the typical form was named by Linnaeus in 1766. The earliest specimens to come to the attention of students of birds apparently were obtained from Indians, and were attributed erroneously to Mexico, the Island of Curaçao, Cayenne, the upper Orinoco, and various other localities where the species is not known to exist. In 1870 Selater and Salvin recorded *Pauxi* from near Caracas, and it was determined in the years that followed that these birds inhabited the forested

mountain areas of northern Venezuela from near Caracas west to the vicinity of Mérida. Comparatively few specimens have been received in museums in the period since the latter part of the sixteenth century when Aldrovandus wrote of it under the name of the *Gallina indica alia*, until recently when its haunts have become better known. Unexpectedly, two were obtained recently by M. A. Carriker, Jr., for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, during work in Bolivia, in the hills above Bolívar, at 2,500 feet elevation near Palmar, in the Yungas de Cochabamba. These proved to have the casque rounded and conical instead of swollen and were described by Bond

¹ Received March 25, 1943.

and de Schauensee as *Pauxi unicornis*.²

From February to March, 1940, W. H. Phelps put an expedition in the field in the eastern slopes of the Sierra de Perijá, west of Machiques, in northwestern Venezuela. One of the collectors of the party purchased from Indians of the Manastara tribe living

ported a *pauji* in the adjacent forests, but none could be found during the course of the expedition. In 1942 a second necklace was received in Caracas as a gift with the assurance that it came from the Indians of the Machiques region. This second necklace was composed of beads, the bills, chest

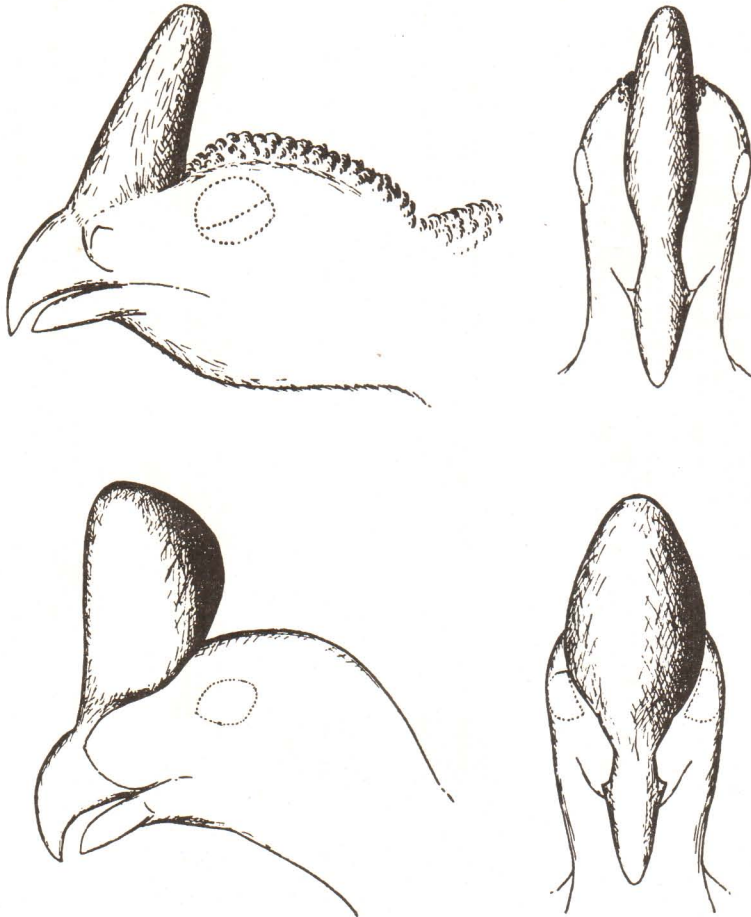


Fig. 1.—Head of *Pauxi p. unicornis* Bond and de Schauensee (above) and of *P. p. pauji* (Linnaeus) one-half natural size, reproduced to scale, through the courtesy of J. S. Bond and R. M. de Schauensee.

at La Sabana a necklace made of beads, with decorations in the form of three head scalps of *Pauxi* composed of the upper half of the bill, the casque, and the skin of the crown down to the eyes. The Indians re-

² *Pauxi unicornis* Bond and de Schauensee, *Notulae Naturae Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, no. 29: 1. Oct. 24, 1939.

feathers, and humeri of two species of toucans, and six of the *Pauxi* scalps.

In 1941 M. A. Carriker, Jr., collecting for the U. S. National Museum, following work with A. Wetmore through the Guajira, continued into the Sierra Negra at the northern end of the Perijá range on the Colombian side of the mountains. In this

work he secured five fine skins of *Pauxi*, a male at 1,800 feet near El Bosque back of Carriapia on June 21, a male at 1,200 to 1,500 feet near Tierra Nueva, July 21, and two adult females and one juvenile between 4,000 and 4,500 feet near Monte Elias in the same general region on August 9 and 11.

In Caracas, on comparing the scalps from the necklaces with skins from farther east in Venezuela, it was evident at once that an unknown form was concerned. After comparison there, through the kindness of Dr. William Beebe, six of the scalps, showing the variations in form, were brought to the American Museum of Natural History, where E. Thomas Gilliard made further studies with material available there and in Philadelphia, assembling much valuable information. When the series of skins in the National Museum came to his attention it seemed desirable to select one of those as type rather than one of the fragmentary heads as was first intended. As Gilliard was under necessity of undertaking other work that has taken him out of the United States, we are completing the study with the aid of additional material.

The investigation has been much assisted by the kindness of Miss Jocelyn Crane, of the Department of Tropical Research, New York Zoological Society, in photographing in Caracas the nine heads obtained from the Indian necklaces.

The hitherto unknown form may be known as—

***Pauxi pauxi gilliardi*, n. subsp.**

Characters.—Similar to *Pauxi pauxi pauxi* (Linnaeus)³ but with the frontal casque or helmet smaller, less swollen (Fig. 2); bill smaller.

Description.—Type, U.S.N.M. 368540, from 1,200 to 1,500 feet elevation near Tierra Nueva, at the northern end of the Serranía de Valledupar, or Sierra Negra, slightly south of east of Fonseca, Departamento de Magdalena, Colombia. Abdomen, extreme lower breast, under tail-coverts, and tip of tail white; rest of plumage black; feathers of head and upper neck, short, thick and soft to the touch, those surrounding the eye being very small; foreneck,

breast, and sides with a greenish sheen, with each feather bordered distally with clear black, producing a dull, squamated appearance that is most prominent on the upper breast and foreneck; exposed feathers of dorsal surface, including wings and tail, also with a dull greenish cast with the wing coverts, lower hind neck, upper back, and longer upper tail-coverts margined narrowly with deep black to produce somewhat indistinct squamations; lower back and rump dull black. Bill dull red; casque blackish brown, with a wash of dull silvery gray on distal third; tarsi and toes dull reddish brown; claws blackish brown (from dried skin).

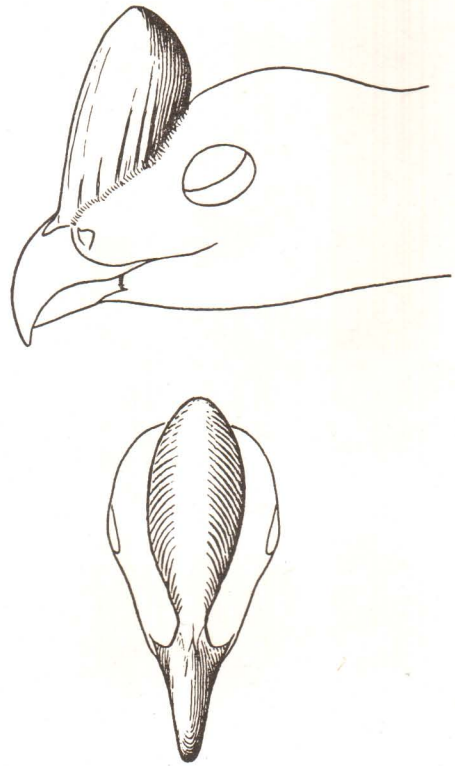


Fig. 2.—Head of *Pauxi p. gilliardi*, one-half natural size.

Measurements.—Males, 2 specimens, wing 354, 370, tail 305, 317, culmen from base of casque 32.1, 33.7, tarsus 110.3–112.1, length of casque (casque deformed in one bird) 58.3, width of casque 24.1, depth of casque 24.5, greatest circumference of casque 76 mm.

Females, 2 specimens, wing 336, 352, tail 290, 292, culmen from base of casque 30.4, 30.7,

³ *Craz pauxi* Linnaeus, *Systema naturae*, ed. 12, 1: 270. 1766.

tarsus 102.9, 103, length of casque 53.5, 57.8, width of casque 23.9, 27, depth of casque 24, 27.1, greatest circumference of casque 76, 83 mm.

Type, male, wing 354, tail 305, culmen from casque 32.1, tarsus 110.3, length of casque 58.3, width of casque 24.1, depth of casque 24.5, greatest circumference of casque 76 mm.

Range.—Known from the mountain forests of the northern part of the Sierra de Perijá from 1,200 to at least 4,500 feet elevation from the region east of Fonseca, Magdalena, Colombia, around to the headwaters of the Río Negro above Machiques, Zulia, Venezuela.

Remarks.—It is easily apparent that the differences in the three forms of the genus *Pauxi* now known are found mainly in the casque, which varies from the cylindrical, somewhat tapering form seen in the two known specimens of *P. unicornis* to the considerably swollen, figlike shape of typical *pauxi*, with *gilliardi* coming between (Figs. 1 and 2). The feathers of the center of the crown, nape, and hind neck in *unicornis* are stiffer and are glossy, instead of soft and velvety, but tendency toward this condition is found also in *pauxi* and *gilliardi*.

Comparative measurements (in mm.) of the casque in all available material follow, those registered for *gilliardi* including the nine heads from Indian necklaces in the Phelps collection:

	11 <i>pauxi</i>	13 <i>gilliardi</i>	2 <i>unicornis</i>
Culmen, from base of casque.....	32-39	29-36	32-35
Greatest width of casque.	28-40	19-27	20
Greatest depth of casque.	30.5-38	21-27.1	23
Greatest circumference of casque.....	93-117	63-85	66-75

The three races will stand therefore as follows:

PAUXI PAUXI PAUXI (Linnaeus)

Mountain forests of northwestern Venezuela from near Caracas, through the Cumbre de Valencia to the Mérida region.

PAUXI PAUXI GILLIARDI Phelps and Wetmore

Forests of the Sierra de Perijá from the western slope in Colombia east of Fonseca, Magdalena, and the Montes de Oca, Guajira, Colombia, around to the head-

waters of the Río Negro above Machiques in Venezuela, probably extending much farther south.

PAUXI PAUXI UNICORNIS Bond and de Schauensee

Known from two specimens from near Palmar, Yungas de Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The form of the casque varies somewhat with age. Carriker secured a young female of *gilliardi* at Monte Elias, Magdalena, Colombia, on August 11, 1941, that apparently is not quite half grown. It already has the plumage of the adult, except that a few bright brown feathers of the young plumage are still found in the crown, some of the wing coverts and back feathers are tipped, or occasionally mottled lightly with bright brown and buff, the secondaries and tertials are mottled somewhat with bright brown and the feathers of the sides, lower breast, and legs are tipped with whitish to buffy brown. The casque in this bird is merely a rounded knob above the base of the culmen, rising about 7 mm from a base that is approximately 15 mm long and 8 mm wide. Gilliard's notes describe an immature *pauxi* in the American Museum of Natural History (no. 471586) with the casque about two-thirds developed which has the greatest circumference about 80 mm. One or two of the heads of *gilliardi* in the Phelps collection may be younger than the others as indicated by the smaller casque. The most southern race, *unicornis*, has the casque more uniformly cylindrical throughout. The two northern forms are marked by a posterior swelling that reaches its maximum development in typical *pauxi*.

Linnaeus⁴ based the description of his *Crax pauxi* on the accounts of Aldrovandus, Willughby, Hernandez, Edwards, Brisson, and other early authors, and from these sources indicated that the bird came from "Mexico." The occurrence of the species has been in much confusion with various erroneous localities included. From present knowledge it appears probable that the few examples seen by the early writers came from Venezuela, since that is the section of the known range ordinarily accessible to the

⁴ Systema naturae, ed. 12, 1: 270. 1766.

early travelers. We, therefore, designate the type locality as near Caracas, Venezuela, since in early days forests suitable for *Pauxi* were found near the city.

As regards the altitudinal distribution of these birds it is erroneous to limit them to the Tropical Zone. Two specimens of *Pauxi* in the Phelps collection were obtained in the Cumbre de Valencia, Carabobo at 1,440 meters (4,725 feet), and at Cubiro, Lara, at 1,900 meters (about 6,200 feet). These are in the lower edge of the Subtropical Zone.

We have pleasure in naming the new form for E. Thomas Gilliard, in recognition of his work on the material on which it is based.

Specimens examined.—*Pauxi p. pauxi*. Venezuela: (American Museum of Natural History) 3 ♂, 7 sex ?, Montañas del Capás, Mérida region (Briceño); 1 ♂, Limones, Río Limones, Mérida region; 1 sex?, zoo specimen; 1 sex?, "northwest Venezuela"

(mounted). (Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia) 3 sex?, zoo specimens; 1 sex?, "northern South America." (Phelps collection, Caracas) 1 ♂, Cumbre de Valencia, Carabobo, at 1,440 meters; 1 ♀, Cubiro, Lara, 1,900 meters.

Pauxi p. gilliardi. Colombia: (U. S. National Museum) 1 ♂, El Bosque, 1,800 feet elevation, in the Sierra Negra, near Cariapia, Guajira; 1 ♂ (type) Tierra Nueva, 1,200–1,500 feet in the Sierra Negra, Magdalena; 2 ♀ adult, 1 ♀ juvenile, Monte Elias, 4,500 feet in the Sierra Negra, Magdalena. Venezuela: (Phelps Collection, Caracas) 9 heads, sex?, on the Río Negro above Machiques, in the Sierra de Perijá, Zulia.

Pauxi p. unicornis. Bolivia (Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia) 1 ♂ (type), 1 ♀, hills above Bolívar, 2,500 feet elevation near Palmar, Yungas de Cochabamba.