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A NEW PICULET FROM AMAZONIAN BOLIVIA

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DOROTHY M. HALMOS

Editor

A NEW PICULET FROM AMAZONIAN BOLIVIA

By KENNETH E. STAGER¹

ABSTRACT: A new race of *Picumnus rufiventris* from Todos Santos, central Bolivia is described and named *Picumnus rufiventris brunneifrons*. The relationships of *P. r. brunneifrons* with the nominate race *P. r. rufiventris* of Colombia and Ecuador and the large race *P. r. grandis* of Peru and Brazil are discussed.

During a revisional study of the neotropical pygmy woodpeckers of the genus *Picumnus*, an undescribed subspecies of *Picumnus rufiventris* has been found and, in anticipation of the complete revision of this genus, is named as follows:

***Picumnus rufiventris brunneifrons*, new subspecies**

Type: Adult male, collected at Todos Santos, Rio Chaparé, Dept. Cochabamba, Bolivia, at an altitude of 1000 feet (300 m), September 7, 1937, by M. A. Carriker, Jr., ANSP 143390.

Diagnosis: Similar to *Picumnus r. grandis* (Carriker, 1930), but smaller, darker and with the feathers of the forehead a distinctive brown instead of black.

Description of Type: (Capitalized color terms are those of Ridgway, 1912.) Crown and nape deep black with each feather tipped with white or Nopal Red. The red tipping is restricted to the center of the crown and nape. The feathers of the nape are broadly tipped with Nopal Red, with the amount of red decreasing anteriorly on the crown. The lateral feathers of the crown are tipped with round spots of white. The feathers of the forehead are uniformly Snuff Brown, but each with a subterminal tip of black and a smaller terminal tip of white. Entire back, rump and shoulders Yellowish Olive. Sides of throat, cheeks and a broad dorsal neck band (8 mm) warm Argus Brown; center of throat, chest, abdomen and flanks rich Amber Brown; primaries, secondaries and tertials Fuscous Brown; outer edge of secondaries and coverts Yellowish Olive; tail coverts Amber Brown; tail black with the middle pair of rectrices Sayal Brown on the inner webs and distal portion of outer webs; the two outer pairs having a broad band of the same color running obliquely across the basal portion of the outer web to the subapical portion of the inner web; under wing coverts and axillaries Amber Brown. Wing, 58.0 mm; tail, 31.0 mm; culmen, 17 mm.

Measurements: Adult males (5), wing 57.0-61.5 mm (average 58.5 mm); tail 28.5-32.0 mm (average 30.5 mm); culmen 15.3-18.5 mm (average 17.3 mm). Adult females (6), wing 58.0-61.0 mm (average 59.7 mm); tail 30.0-

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33.0 mm (average 31.3 mm); culmen 16.4-17.0 mm (average 16.9 mm). Immature female (AMNH), wing 58.5 mm, tail 31.0 mm, culmen 15.5 mm.

Range: Known only from a series of 12 specimens, 11 of which are from the type locality and one (LSU) from the Rio Mamoré, Dept. Beni, Bolivia.

Remarks: *Picumnus rufiventris brunneifrons* of Bolivia is the southeasterly race of the rufous-breasted piculet that ranges from eastern Colombia and Ecuador (*P. r. rufiventris*), through eastern Peru and western Brazil (*P. r. grandis*). The nominate race and *P. r. brunneifrons* are somewhat similar in size, but are widely separated geographically by the larger sized race *P. r. grandis*. A hiatus of nearly 600 direct line miles separates the most southeasterly locality known for *P. r. grandis* (mouth of the Rio Inambari, Peru) from the type locality of *P. r. brunneifrons* in central Bolivia (Todos Santos).

A comparison of the male pileum in all three subspecies shows the foreheads of both *P. r. grandis* and *P. r. brunneifrons* to be heavily dotted with white, while the forehead of *P. r. rufiventris* is characterized by an almost total absence of white dots. The females of *P. r. brunneifrons* are identical to the males in color pattern except for the absence of the red tipping to the feathers of the crown, the red being replaced with round white dots. *Picumnus r. brunneifrons* is immediately separable from the other two subspecies by the presence of the distinctive brown forehead in both males and females.

Specimens Examined: Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP), 5 (2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀) Todos Santos, Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia; American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), 2 (2 ♀♀) Todos Santos, Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia; Paris Museum (PM), 2 (1 ♂, 1 ♀) Todos Santos, Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia; Louisiana State University (LSU), 3 (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀) Todos Santos, Department of Cochabamba and Rio Mamoré, Department of Beni, Bolivia.

For the loan of comparative material of *rufiventris*, I am indebted to the American Museum of Natural History; the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; the Museum of Comparative Zoology; the Louisiana State University; the Field Museum; the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; and the Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College.

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