A NEW BIRD OF THE GENUS *PICUMNUS*
FROM EASTERN BRAZIL

By KENNETH E. STAGER

Examination of a collection of birds in the Los Angeles County Museum, secured in the state of Alagoas in 1957 by Sr. Emilio Dente of the Departamento de Zoologia, São Paulo, Brazil, has revealed a strikingly marked piculet (*Picumnus*) not previously described. A subsequent examination of the woodpeckers collected by the late Emil Kaempfer in Pernambuco for the American Museum of Natural History, revealed an additional three specimens of this undescribed species.

I am grateful to Dr. Dean Amador of the Department of Birds of the American Museum of Natural History for the opportunity of examining the material collected by Emil Kaempfer, as well as for the loan of pertinent specimen material needed to complete this particular study. Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature." The new species of piculet is described as follows:

*Picumnus fulvescens*, new species

**Type:** From Garanhuns, southeastern Pernambuco, Brazil. No. 242765, American Museum of Natural History. Adult female collected February 7, 1927, by Emil Kaempfer.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from all other species of *Picumnus* by having the entire breast and abdomen a uniform rich fulvous brown. The feathers of the breast area have light shaft areas that give a pattern of light striations to the breast.

**Range:** Known from a series of five specimens from eastern Brazil: Pernambuco (3), and northern Alagoas (2).

**Description of Type:** Back and rump uniformly Snuff Brown except for a few feathers in center of back with faint tipping of buff; nasal tufts whitish; forehead, crown and nape black with small circular white spots; spots very small on forehead, becoming progressively larger and elongated

1Curator of Ornithology, Los Angeles County Museum
posteriorly towards nape; chin, upper throat, lores, and malar area whitish; breast, sides, flanks, abdomen, and under tail coverts Ochraceous Tawny; breast without bars or spots, but possessing a striated appearance due to the shafts and proximal ends of the barbs being a lighter color, near Clay Color; auricular area Sepia with an elongated white streak at upper margin giving the appearance of a small postocular stripe; auricular area separated from side of crown by a postocular bare patch; primaries and secondaries Sepia, but the latter edged with Warm Buff; upper wing coverts tipped with Warm Buff; under wing coverts and axillaries pale Ochraceous Tawny; tail black, median rectrices with inner webs white; bill black, base whitish gray; wing, 51.5 mm.; tail 31.5; exposed culmen 10.0; tarsus 12.0.

Remarks: The type series consists entirely of females, all uniform in size and color. The difference in plumage between the sexes will quite likely prove to be in the amount and shade of red or yellow on the crown of the male. *Picumnus exilis pernambucensis*, is the only other species of piculet known to occur within the range of *Picumnus fulvescens* and the two species are sympatric in the state of Alagoas. The former species differs decidedly from *Picumnus fulvescens* (fig. 1), however, by having the underparts heavily barred with black. The only species of *Picumnus* other than *P. fulvescens* that possess rich brown underparts without barring or spots are *P. rufiventris* and *P. cinnamomeus* of northwestern South America (fig. 1).

Naumberg (1935: 455), in her gazetteer of collecting stations visited by Emil Kaempfer, describes the type locality of Garanhuns as “a country of fine old forests, and the hills covered with coffee plantations.” The two specimens of *P. fulvescens* from Alagoas are from Engenho Riacho, a stream course north of the small city of Quebrangulo. According to Pinto (1954: 7) the locality of Engenho Riacho is situated in the wooded foothill region on the north central boundary of the state of Alagoas.

Specimens Examined

*Picumnus fulvescens*

Brazil (AMNH): 242765 Pernambuco, Garanhuns, ♀, Holotype; 242766 Pernambuco, Palmares, ♀, Paratype; 242767 Pernambuco, Brejao, ♀, Paratype.

Brazil (LACM): 38068 Alagoas, Engenho Riacho, ♀, Paratype; 38069 Alagoas, Engenho Riacho, ♀, Paratype.

Specimens in the American Museum and Los Angeles County Museum of the following species of *Picumnus* were examined: albosquamatus, aurijrons, borbae, castlenau, cinnamomeus, cirratus, exilis, granadensis, guttifer, innominatus, minutissimus, olivaceus, pumilus, pygmaeus, rufi-

Fig. 1. Ventral view of five species of *Picumnus*, from top to bottom: *P. cinnamomeus*, *P. rufiventris*, *P. fulvescens* (holotype), *P. exilis pernambucensis*, and *P. pygmaeus*. 
ventris, sclateri, spilogaster, steindacheri, squammulatus, temminckii, and varzeae. The type was also compared with descriptions of *P. asterias, fuscus, limae, nebulosus, nigropunctatus*, and *pallidus*.

**Literature Cited**

Naumberg, Elsie M. B.  

Pinto, Oliverio  