2. Campylorhynchus capistratus.


Supra laxe castaneus, uropygio nigro transfuscato, capite summo et stria transoculari nigris; alis fusco-nigris, extus castaneo variegatis; cauda nigra, rectricibus maculis subapicalibus albis notatis, apicibus ipsis sordide griseo-fuscis, rectricibus duabus mediis fasciis quinque imperfectis ornatis, rectricem duarum utrinque extinarum pugonio externo albo maculato; corpore subtilis et supercilii albis ochraceo vix tinctis; rostro corneo, mandibulae basi albicans; pedibus coriinis. Long. tota 0-7, alae 2-85, caudae 2-8, rostri a ricta 1-1, tarsi 1-0. (Descr. maris ex Escuintla, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)


Hab. Mexico, Vera Cruz (A. Lesson), Jalapa (de Oca), Juquila and Playa Vicente (Boucard), Mirador (Sartorius), Chic (Mus. Ber., British Honduras, Belize; Guatemala, plain of Zacapa, Chuacús and Trache Grande in the Matoguay valley, Savana Grande, Escuintla, Naranjo, and Retalhuleu in the Pacific-coast region (O. S. & F. D. G.); San Salvador, Acajutla and La Union (O. S.); Honduras, near the Pacific (Taylor), San Pedro (G. M. Whitley); Nicaragua, Realejo (Lesson), San Juan del Sur (O. S.); Costa Rica, Punta Arenas (J. M. Dow), San Mateo (J. Cooper), Bebedero (Arcé).

There has long been considerable doubt whether the bird described by Lesson from Realejo as Picolaptes capistrata is distinct from one from Mexico, called by Lafrenaye Campylorhynchus rufinucha—the latter having the back conspicuously striped and the flanks sparsely spotted with black, the former having the back plain chestnut and the flanks without marks. Des Murs, when figuring the type of C. capistratus, considered C. rufinucha to have been applied to a younger individual of the former; and this view was generally accepted until Prof. Baird wrote his ‘Review of American Birds’ and reinstated C. rufinucha as a species. We were at one time disposed to follow Prof. Baird in thus recognizing two species; but now, by the light of additional specimens, we doubt the existence of more than one; for the extent of the markings of the back is found to be variable, and not correlated with the spotting of the flanks. Nor can we fix the birds with spotted backs to any special locality. Prof. Baird supposed C. rufinucha to be the species of Eastern Mexico; but we trace it in some of its characters to Costa Rica, specimens of the true C. capistratus being found at immediate points.

C. capistratus has a wide range in Central America, being found from the State of Vera Cruz in Mexico to Costa Rica. It nowhere occurs at a higher elevation than