Supra luride castaneus, capite toto et cervice, tibialis et subalaribus nigris, abdomen versus in castaneum transuncte, crasso dorso concolori; cauda flava, rectricibus duabus mediis nigriscensibus; rostro negro ad apicem abrupte flave, pedibus nigris. Long. tota 10-0, alas 10-4, caudae 8-0 (rectr. med. 7-0), rostri a rictu 3-0, tarsi 2-2. (Descr. maris ex Choctum, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

♀ mari similis sed multo minor. Long. tota 14-2, alas 7-6, caudae 5-7, rostri a rictu 2-3, tarsi 2-0.

Hab. MEXICO 18, Cordova (Sallé ²), Jalapa (de Oca ⁴), hot region of Vera Cruz (Sumichrast 10), tierra caliente of the Atlantic coast (le Strange), Playa Vicente (Boucard ⁹), Actopam, Barra de Santa Ana, Paso de la Milpa (Perez 2⁰); BRITISH HONDURAS (Blancaneaux 18); GUATEMALA, Iguana (O. S. ⁵), Choctum 18, Chisec 18, Quirigua, Yzabal, between Cahabon and San Luis (O. S. & F. D. G.), Tucuru and Tamahu (Sarg); HONDURAS, Omoa (Leyland ⁶), San Pedro (G. M. Whetley ¹⁵), Taulevi (G. C. Taylor ³⁷); NICARAGUA, Sucuya 18, Los Sabalos ¹⁰ (Nutting), Blewfields river (Wickham ¹⁴); COSTA RICA, San Carlos, Angostura (v. Frantzius ¹⁷, Carmiol ¹²), Sarapiqui, Tucurriqui, San Mateo, Aguacate, Orosi (v. Frantzius ¹⁷); PANAMA, Lion Hill (McLeannan ¹¹ ¹³).

The range of Gymnostinops montezumae is very similar to that of Eucorystes wagleri, extending from the Eastern forests of Southern Mexico, through eastern Guatemala, and in Nicaragua southwards to Panama, embracing the forests of both Atlantic and Pacific coast-regions. Beyond Panama it does not extend, its place being apparently taken in Darien by the allied G. guatemozinus. It is absent from the western forests of the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and from the whole of the Pacific coast-region of Guatemala.

Sumichrast says G. montezumae is confined to the hot region of Vera Cruz, seldom ascending the mountains to a height of 3300 feet above the sea ¹⁶. In Guatemala we found it at lower elevations, but abundant in all the forest-country north of Coban to the confines of Peten, and in the lower portions of the valleys of the Polochic and Motagua rivers. It lives in colonies, and makes a nest, like that of Eucorystes wagleri, of grasses neatly woven. Each nest is suspended to the end of an outer bough of some isolated forest tree, and hangs some two or three feet in length, with the opening at the top. Often forty or fifty nests may be seen in one tree. Mr. Nutting says the birds, on entering the nests, shake them violently about, causing them to make a rustling sound ¹⁸.

The cry of this species is very loud and discordant, and as different as possible from the melodious notes of the various species of Icterus.

When fresh these birds and their immediate allies have a very peculiar odour.

The species most nearly allied to G. montezumae is G. bifasciatus of the lower Amazons valley, a bird we have never seen, but which Cassin pronounced to be quite distinct, the thighs being chestnut instead of black.