

Geranospiza gracilis, var. *niger*, Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 299¹².

Geranospiza caerulescens, Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 218¹³; 1860, p. 44¹⁴; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. vii. p. 289¹⁵; Stone, Pr. Ac. Phil. 1890, p. 204¹⁶.

Geranospiza caerulescens, var. *niger*, Ridgw. Pr. Bost. Soc. N. H. xvi. p. 85¹⁷.

Schistaceo-niger, plumis cervicis posticæ ad basin albis: subtus concolor, mento albo variegato, plumis abdominis tibiæ et tectricum caudæ superiorum albido stricte marginatis; subalaribus nigris, albo variegatis; remigibus subtus fasciis duabus irregularibus albidis notatis; cauda nigra, albido terminata et fasciis duabus albis notata: rostro nigro, pedibus rubidis. Long. tota circa 19·5, alæ 12·3, caudæ 9·5, tarsi 3·3. (Descr. feminae ex Escuintla, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Juv. Loris et fronte albo intermixtis, corpore toto subtus nigricante cervino-albido transfasciato, subcaudalibus fere omnino cervino-albidis.

Hab. MEXICO, both coasts (*Sumichrast*⁷), Mazatlan (*Grayson*¹²), Presidio de Mazatlan (*Forrer*), Tecolapa in Colima (*W. Lloyd*), Cordova (*Sallé*¹¹), Santa Efigenia⁵, Cacoprieto, Tonalá (*Sumichrast*), Buctzotz and Peto in Yucatan, Meco I.^{9 10} (*G. F. Gaumer*), Shkolak (*Stone & Baker*¹⁶); BRITISH HONDURAS, Orange Walk (*G. F. Gaumer*); GUATEMALA¹³, Dueñas¹⁴ (*O. S.*), Savana Grande, Escuintla (*O. S. & F. D. G.*); HONDURAS, San Pedro (*G. M. Whitely*⁴); NICARAGUA, Chinandega, Ocotal (*W. B. Richardson*); COSTA RICA, Pozo Azul de Pirris (*Zeledon*⁸); PANAMA, Mina de Chorchá (*Arcé*³), Lion Hill (*M. Leannan*¹⁵).

This singular bird was first described¹ by Du Bus from a Mexican specimen, and was subsequently figured in his 'Esquisse Ornithologique'². It has since been found to occur over a large part of the hotter regions of our country, from Mazatlan on the west coast of Mexico, and the State of Vera Cruz on the east, to Panama. Grayson¹² speaks of it as one of the rarest of the Falconidæ in Western Mexico. He only secured two specimens during his residence at Mazatlan. These were found near ponds in the low ground near the Rio Mazatlan. One, shot in February, had just captured a large frog; the other was obtained in April near the same place. In the stomach of each he found the partly digested remains of frogs, and in one a small water-snake. He describes the bird as having a sluggish nature, sitting listlessly for hours on the same branch of a tree. Mr. Stone secured a specimen near the "aguada" of Shkolak, in Yucatan. A specimen shot by Salvin near Dueñas was in the forest of low trees which then skirted the hills to the eastward of the plain of Dueñas. It was not near water, though both the Rio Guacalate and the Lake of Dueñas were not far off. The stomach of this bird contained a small mammal. The iris was burnt-sienna colour, the outer portion of the ring being lighter coloured than the inner, the legs blood-orange, and the cere black. Dueñas (4900 feet) is above the usual range of *G. niger*, but other specimens subsequently obtained by us were from the lower elevations of Savana Grande and Escuintla (1200 feet). All these places are on the slope of the mountains trending towards the Pacific Ocean. We have no record of the species being found on the Atlantic side of the Cordillera in Guatemala, though it doubtless occurs there,