

# Occasional Papers of the Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University

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Volume 1 | Number 33

Article 1

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11-16-1965

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### Recommended Citation

Lowery, George H. Jr. and O'neill, John P. (1965) "A new species of *Cacicus* (Aves: Icteridae) from Peru," *Occasional Papers of the Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University* : No. 33 , Article 1.

DOI: 10.31390/opmns.033

Available at: <https://repository.lsu.edu/opmns/vol1/iss33/1>

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF  
ZOOLOGY

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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A NEW SPECIES OF *CACICUS* (AVES: ICTERIDAE) FROM PERU<sup>1</sup>

GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., AND JOHN P. O'NEILL

THE LOWLANDS, or *selva*, of central-eastern Perú, in the region of the drainage of the Río Alto Purús into Brazil, are extremely difficult of access and consequently are not well known ornithologically. The field work by O'Neill in 1963 and then by O'Neill, John Farrand, and J. Alan Feduccia as part of our 1964-65 McIlhenny Peruvian Expedition, in the vicinity of the Cashinahua Indian village known to Peruvians as Balta, on the Río Curanja, has yielded unexpected novelties, including a new genus and species of cotinga of which a description is now in press. The present paper concerns a new cacique that was obtained by O'Neill first in the summer of 1963 and then again in 1965. The two specimens did not arouse our special interest until they were routinely compared with specimens in a collection recently obtained by this Museum from Bolivia. All caciques are basically black. Some are wholly black, but others have the rump either red or yellow, and still others have varying amounts of yellow in the tail and wings. The present species is unique in its combination of small size and all black plumage except for a yellow rump. We propose that it be known as

*CACICUS KOEPECKEAE* new species

SELVA CACIQUE

*Type*.—Adult male; Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology no. 42827; Balta (at the point where the streams known to local Cashinahua Indians as the Xumuya and the Inuya enter the Río Curanja), lat. 10°08' S,

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<sup>1</sup>The Louisiana State University Foundation provided funds for the publication of this paper.

long. 71°13'W, elevation approximately 300 meters, Depto. Loreto, Perú; 22 March 1965; collected by John P. O'Neill; original number 1487.

*Diagnosis.*—Most similar to *Cacicus chrysopterus* (Vigors)<sup>2</sup> but size somewhat larger,<sup>3</sup> secondary wing coverts black instead of yellow, rump slightly more orange-yellow and with yellow more extensive, feet larger, tail more graduated, and bill broader and less rounded basally (see Plate and Figure 1). Similar also to *Cacicus chrysonotus* (Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny)<sup>4</sup> but size much smaller and black of plumage decidedly more glossy. Differs from *Cacicus sclateri* (Dubois)<sup>5</sup> and *Cacicus solitarius* (Vieillot)<sup>6</sup> in having a yellow rump instead of being all black. Differs from *Cacicus leucoramphus* (Bonaparte)<sup>7</sup> in its smaller size and in lacking extensive yellow in the wing. Differs from *Cacicus cela* (Linnaeus)<sup>8</sup> in possessing moderately long decumbent crest feathers and in having no yellow in the tail and under tail coverts. Differs from *Cacicus uropygialis* (Lafresnaye)<sup>9</sup> and *Cacicus haemorrhous* (Linnaeus)<sup>10</sup> in having the rump yellow instead of red, as well as in size and bill structure.

*Description of type.*—Plumage all jet, glossy black except for rump, which is yellow with a slight golden tinge; tail graduated with central rectrices exceeding outermost rectrices by 19 mm; feathers of crown elongated forming a moderately long decumbent crest; culmen moderately broad and flat basally and not decurved; in life color of bill bluish gray with tip paler, tarsometatarsus and toes black, irises bluish white.

<sup>2</sup>*Xanthornus chrysopterus* Vigors, Zool. Journ., 2, no. 6, 1825: 190. Suppl., pl. 9 (Brazil). Cf. Todd (1924) and Wetmore (1926) for the basis of our use of *Cacicus chrysopterus* (Vigors) instead of *Cacicus albirostris* (Vieillot).

<sup>3</sup>Sixteen males of *Cacicus chrysopterus* from southern Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina measure (in millimeters) as follows: chord of wing, 99.4-106.4 (avg., 102.5); tail, 85.0-94.3(89.2); exposed culmen, 20.0-23.8(22.6); width of bill between loreal antiae, 2.9-3.2(3.0); tarsus, 23.1-25.6(24.2); middle toe without claw, 16.2 and 16.2 (two specimens only).

<sup>4</sup>*Cassicus chrysonotus* Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny, Syn. Av., 2, in Mag. Zool., 8, cl. 2, 1838: 3 (Yungas, Bolivia).

<sup>5</sup>*Agelaeus sclateri* Dubois, Bull. Mus. Roy. Hist. Nat. Belg., 5, no. 1, 1887: p. 1, pl. 1 ("Republique de l'Equateur").

<sup>6</sup>*Cassicus solitarius* Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., nouv. éd., 5, 1816: 364 (Paraguay).

<sup>7</sup>*Xanthornus leucoramphus* Bonaparte, Atti Sesta Riun. Sci. Ital. Milano, 1844, 1845: 405 (Santa-Fé-de-Bogotá, Colombia).

<sup>8</sup>*Parus Cela* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., 10th ed., 1, 1758: 191 ("in Indiis"; Surinam substituted by Hellmayr, Nov. Zool., 13, 1906: 20).

<sup>9</sup>*Cassicus uropygialis* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 6, 1843: 290 (Colombia = "Bogotá").

<sup>10</sup>*Oriolus haemorrhous* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., 12th ed., 1, 1766: 161 (Cayenne).



SELVA CACIQUE, *Cacicus koepckeae*

A NEW SPECIES FROM PERU

From a tempera painting by John P. O'Neill  
(one-half natural size)

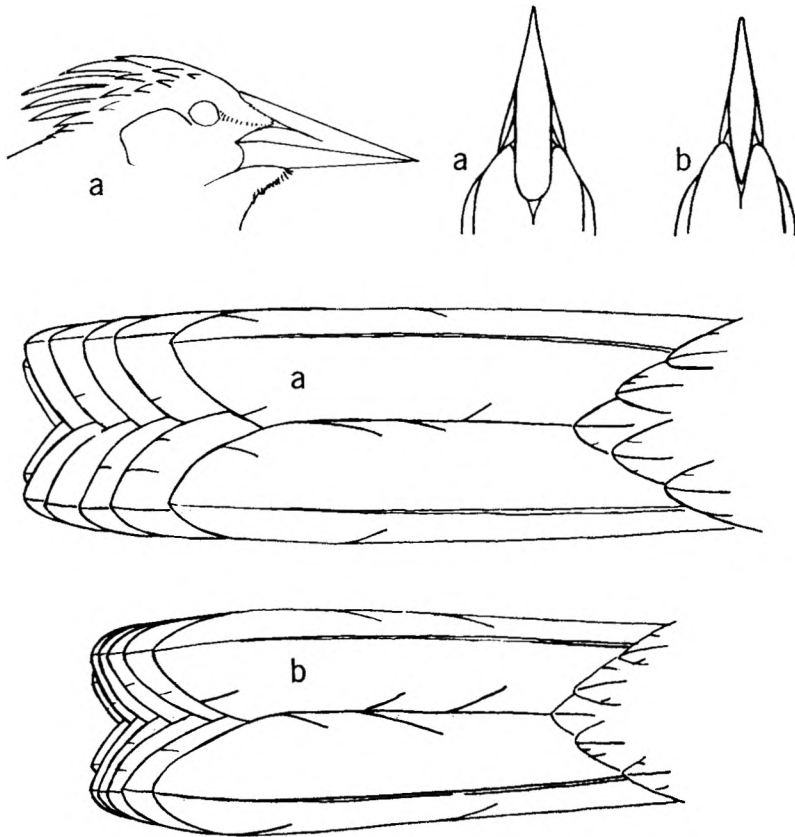


FIGURE 1. External structural features of (a) *Cacicus koepckeae* (the type) and (b) *Cacicus chrysopterus* (AMNH no. 142639).  $\times 1$ .

*Specimens examined*.—Two males, from the type locality.

*Measurements* (in millimeters).—Two males (type specimen first): chord of wing, 109.5, 109.0; tail, 100.8, 103.8; exposed culmen, 26.3, 26.4; width of culmen between loral antiae, 5.6, 4.8; tarsus, 26.1, 26.4; middle toe without claw, 18.3, 18.2.

*Remarks*.—We, like Ridgway (1902), are not entirely convinced of the need for subdividing the genus *Cacicus* Lacépède by recognizing *Archiplanus* Cabanis, a course formally advocated by Miller (1924) and adopted by subsequent authors (Hellmayr, 1937, and others). Although in *C. chrysopt-*

*terus*, *C. solitarius*, *C. sclateri*, *C. chrysonotus*, *C. leucoramphus*, and now *C. koepckeae* the bill is relatively small and wedge shaped and the culmen and commissure are both nearly straight instead of decurved, there appears to be a wide range of variability and overlap in the other alleged differences.

The one paratype specimen has an almost imperceptible trace of yellow on the very tips of the posterior barbs of a single greater secondary covert of one wing. Taxonomists who carry the lumping of species to extremes might argue that this bare trace of yellow on one feather points to the possible conspecificity of *koepckeae* with *chrysopterus*. However, we believe that since in *chrysopterus* all the secondary coverts (except one or two of the proximal greater secondary coverts) and all marginal coverts are entirely yellow the specific status of *koepckeae* is clearly evident. Moreover, the more graduated tail, the larger feet, and the broader base of the culmen serve unequivocally to distinguish *koepckeae* from *chrysopterus*. Wetmore (1926: 389) records the eye color of *chrysopterus* as "pale ochraceous salmon" and the color of the tarsometatarsus and toes as "blackish brown." The color in life of these parts in *koepckeae* are, respectively, bluish white and black, characters that lend further strong support to its specific distinctness.

We are pleased to name this new species for Dr. Maria Koepcke of Lima in further recognition of her outstanding contributions to the ornithology of Perú and as an expression of our high esteem for her professional accomplishments.

Grateful acknowledgments are extended to the following for helpful suggestions or for the loan of specimens in their care: Drs. Dean Amadon, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Robert J. Newman, Kenneth C. Parkes, and Alexander Wetmore. We are also indebted to Brown & Bigelow of Saint Paul, Minnesota, for their favor in furnishing the color plate accompanying this paper.

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