

Comments on the identification of two species of *Mionectes* flycatchers

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Se encontraron diferencias en la coloración del pico, así como la conocida, pero no muy evidente, diferencia en el color de la cabeza, entre individuos del Mosquerito Cuellilistado *Mionectes striaticollis* y el Mosquerito Olivirrayado *M. olivaceus* capturados abajo de Abra Patricia, noreste de Perú. Ambas especies presentaron una coloración negra en la mandíbula superior, pero todos los individuos de *striaticollis* tenían la mandíbula inferior pálida con la punta negra, mientras que en *olivaceus* ésta era completamente negra. Todos los individuos de *olivaceus* fueron capturados entre 1.300–1.400 m y todos los de *striaticollis* entre 1.800–2.200 m. Sin embargo no se muestrearon las áreas intermedias.

During a survey of upper tropical forest below Abra Patricia in north-east Peru (05°46'S 77°41'W) in November 1998, I caught 31 Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis* and six Olive-striped Flycatcher *M. olivaceus*. The two are easily distinguished in the hand by head colour: dark grey in the former and olive in the latter, but this feature can be difficult to detect in the dim forest understorey light. There were no significant differences in any of the biometrics. However, I did note that there was a consistent difference in bill colour: both species had black upper mandibles but all the *striaticollis* had a pale lower mandible, with a black tip, the colour varying from white to pale brown or horn, whereas *olivaceus* had all-black lower mandibles. This feature does not appear to have been noted in any field book, including Ridgely & Tudor¹.

The species are to some extent separated altitudinally (*striaticollis* is reported from 600–3,400 m, principally occurring at 1,200–2,400 m, whereas *olivaceus* is known from sea-level to 3,000 m, with most records from 500–1,600 m), although the boundary will doubtless vary according to locality. At Abra Patricia, I caught all of the *olivaceus* at 1,300–1,400 m, the lower limit of my mist-netting activities in forest, and the *striaticollis* at 1,800–2,200 m. The species' boundary was not determined as I did not mist-net at any intervening elevations.

Reference

1. Ridgely, R. S. & Tudor, G. (1994) *The birds of South America*, 2. Austin: Texas University Press.

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