



Type specimens and type localities of Peruvian birds described by Jean Cabanis on the basis of Konstanty Jelski's collections

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Abstract

Jean Cabanis, curator of ornithology at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany, described, in 1873–1874, 34 new species of birds on the basis of specimens collected in Peru by Konstanty Jelski, a Polish naturalist. He borrowed or purchased these specimens from Władysław Taczanowski (1819–1890), curator of zoology at the Imperial Warszawa University in Warszawa, Poland. We located and identified their types in the museums of Berlin (ZMB) and Warszawa (MIZ). Types of 21 species (28 type specimens) were deposited in the ZMB, of which types of 18 species (22 specimens) survive. The MIZ originally housed types of 14 species (19 type specimens), of which the types of only four species (4 specimens) survive. Overall, all types were lost for 12 species of Peruvian birds described by Cabanis on the basis of Jelski's collections.

Key words: Aves, nomenclature, taxonomy, Peru, Jean Cabanis, Konstanty Jelski, Władysław Taczanowski

Introduction

Jean Cabanis (1816–1906), curator of birds at the Museum für Naturkunde (Museum of Natural History) in Berlin, Germany, had been, in the 1870s, in close contact with Władysław Taczanowski (1819–1890), curator of zoology at the *Varšavskij Imperatorskij Universitet* (Imperial Warszawa University) in Warszawa, Poland (then part of the Russian Empire) (see e.g. Mlíkovský 2007a,b, Mlíkovský & Frahnert 2009). In the early 1870s, Taczanowski received from Konstanty Jelski (1837–1896), a Polish naturalist working in Peru since December 1869 (see Jelski 1898, 2007), consignments containing many specimens of birds. Having no comparative collections in Warszawa at that time, he sent most, though not all, of these specimens to other ornithologists for identification, in particular to Philip Lutley Sclater (1829–1913) in London, and to Jean Cabanis in Berlin (see Taczanowski 1875: 501). Birds from the first consignments sent from Peru to Warszawa by Jelski were described by Cabanis (1873a,b,c, 1874), Taczanowski (1874, 1875), Sclater (1874), and Sclater & Salvin (1875). These consignments marked the start of the great influx of ornithological material from South America to Warszawa, but Cabanis was not involved in these studies after 1874 (see Mlíkovský 2009b).

Cabanis described 34 species of Peruvian birds on the basis of specimens received from Taczanowski (Cabanis 1873a,b,c, 1874). His publications, however, give little information regarding the exact size of the type series, the whereabouts of individual type specimens, and date and locality of their origin, owing in part to his having limited information from Taczanowski as to the provenance of the specimens. To clarify these data we searched, in 2008, for type specimens of these bird species in the museums of Berlin (JM & SF) and Warszawa (JM; see also Mlíkovský 2009b).