

# POSTILLA

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**Yale** PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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# Postilla

## YALE PEABODY MUSEUM

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### A NEW TANAGER FROM MEXICO

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*Piranga roseo-gularis tincta* subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (No. 9153, Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist., New Haven), collected at Chetumal, Territory of Quintana Roo, Mexico, Nov. 12, 1948, by Raymond A. Paynter, Jr.

Diagnosis: Compared with typical *roseo-gularis* the male differs in being more saturated gray above, grayer on the breast, and washed with buffy on the abdomen. Compared with *cozumelae* it is equally dark above but with a reddish tinge, slightly deeper pink on the throat, and faintly streaked with pink on the breast and upper abdomen. The tail is shorter than in either race.

The female of this form is more buffy below than *roseo-gularis* and lighter on the pileum than typical *cozumelae*.

Immature specimens of both sexes are highly variable and are inseparable from *roseo-gularis* and *cozumelae*.

Measurements: Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 50 (2):99) states that *cozumelae* has a longer tail and a shorter wing than *roseo-gularis*. However, in my series of specimens, the difference between the mean tail length of the males of *tincta* and the means of the other two races is the only statistically significant interracial difference in external measurements.  $P < .02$ .

Character	Race	Adult Males			Adult Females		
		No. Specimens	Mean	Standard error of mean	No. Specimens	Mean	Standard error of mean
Tail	<i>tincta</i>	8	64.81 mm.	±.58 mm.	7	63.00 mm.	± .60 mm.
	<i>roseo-gularis</i>	12	67.08	±.71	6	62.75	±1.40
	<i>cozumelae</i>	4	67.25	±.69	2	63.75	± .25

Three adult males of *tincta* collected in Chetumal during November and December had a mean weight of  $24.83 \pm .21$  grams, whereas two males of the same race from Carrillo Puerto taken in March weighed  $22.90 \pm .40$  grams. The difference between the two means is statistically significant.  $P < .02$ . A female collected in January at Chetumal weighed 22.00 grams.

The only weights available for *roseo-gularis* are two males taken at Xcan and Kantunil Kin in April which weighed 23.40 and 22.60 grams, and two females from Tabi and Kantunil Kin, taken in March and April, which weighed 23.20 and 20.70 grams.

A male and female of *cozumelae*, taken in January, weighed 22.30 and 22.90 grams respectively.

Range: The more humid regions of the central and southern portions of the Yucatan Peninsula including Campeche and Quintana Roo. The range of *roseo-gularis* should be amended to include only the more arid portion of the peninsula, roughly consisting of the entire state of Yucatan and the northern tip of Quintana Roo.

Material Examined: 54 specimens of all races.

*roseo-gularis*: 26 specimens from Chichen Itza, Yuc., Xocempich, Yuc., Xbac, Yuc., "Yucatan," Kantunil Kin, Q. Roo, Xcan, Q. Roo, and Tabi, Q. Roo.

*tincta*: 19 specimens from Chetumal, Q. Roo, Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo, Acomal, Q. Roo, Palmul, Q. Roo, Chunyaxche, Q. Roo, and Pacaitun, Camp.

*cozumelae*: 9 specimens from Cozumel, Q. Roo.

Discussion: The specimens from Pacaitun, Campeche, approach *roseo-gularis* clinally in the coloration of the back but they have been placed with *tincta* because of their shorter tails.

The variations in the weights of the males of *tincta* are extremely interesting. Greater weight is possibly an additional racial character of *tincta*. From the few available data the birds from Chetumal are definitely more heavy than those from Carrillo Puerto. It may be that Chetumal is an area where the racial characters are most strong and Pacaitun, Carrillo Puerto, etc., are areas which show a gradation toward *roseo-gularis*. Variations in color and tail length seem to support this hypothesis. Weight variation may be seasonal but examination of the gonades indicates that it is not correlated with the development of these organs.

I wish to thank the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Chicago Natural Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History for permitting me to examine material in their care.