

# 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 White-throated Spinetail  
from western Brazil<sup>1</sup>

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The Yale Peabody Museum has acquired recently by exchange with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, a considerable segment of the bird collections made by Mr. S. M. Klages. This series, amounting to 4,389 specimens, represents the major part of an original collection of 5,000 specimens purchased by the Cleveland Museum from the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburg shortly after it had been made in the early nineteen-twenties. The collection consists of specimens from French Guiana and from the States of Para and Amazonas in Brazil. Many of the taxonomic papers of Mr. W. E. C. Todd of the Carnegie Museum have of course been based on specimens from the Klages collections, the major parts of which are still housed in the Carnegie Museum. No general report has been written on the collection as a whole, although some of the areas included in this collection have received detailed treatment by authors on other material, most recently the comprehensive paper by Count Gyldenstolpe on the avifauna of the Rio Purús in western Amazonia (1951, *Ark. för Zool.*, Ser. 2, 2, no. 1).

Among the interesting specimens in the collection from western Brazil, are two examples of the White-throated

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<sup>1</sup>Dedicated in honor of Professor Alexander Petrunkevitch's eightieth birthday.

Spinetail, previously unreported from this area, which may be known as:

*Synallaxis albescens pullata* subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. No. 29701) collected February 9, 1923, by S. M. Klages at São Paulo de Olivença, Rio Solimões, western Brazil.

Diagnosis: This is the darkest population of the species. The back in this form lacks the grayish tinge to the brownish-toned mantle of the typical form, as well as of *inaequalis*, or the distinctly grayish-tinted *griseonota*. In color the back of these examples is dark sepia, nearly clove brown, only slightly more olive-brown on the rump, and equally dark brown on the upper tail surfaces. The wing coverts are darker, more rufous than any of the other forms, although the pileum seems similar in tone to that of *inaequalis*. Below, these specimens are dark gray, rather pure in tone, not as tinted with brown as in the other races, the black spot on the throat rather pronounced, although this may be seasonal. The center of the abdomen is pure albescent.

Range: Western Brazil on the Rio Solimões at São Paulo de Olivença.

Remarks: Pinto (1938, Cat. das Aves do Brasil, 1: 408-09), lists no specimens of this species from the Rio Solimões, nor do other authors who have revised the populations of this species, such as Zimmer (1935, Am. Mus. Novit., No. 819: 2-3), or Todd (1948, Ann. Carnegie Mus., 31, art. 4: 34-37). Gyldenstolpe (1951, *op. cit.*: 159-160), does not report the species for the Rio Purús where this form might be expected in the future to occur. It is to be expected that this population might appear in patches of suitable biotope in the immediately adjacent areas of extreme southern Colombia or eastern Peru, in which latter country, the species is so far unrepresented.

In addition to the forms mentioned, specimens of *S. a. insignis*, *S. a. nesiotis*, and *S. a. australis*, have also been examined, from all of which this new form differs in greater degree as described.