

**A new species of spinetail (*Synallaxis*) from Peru.**—In recent years Field Museum of Natural History has received a number of small but interesting collections of Peruvian birds made by Peter Hocking during his extensive travels about the country as a missionary. The identification of these collections has led to the discovery of many extensions of range within Peru and several additions to its known fauna. A summary of these discoveries will be published later. Of greater immediate interest is the discovery of a new furnariid of striking appearance for which I propose the name

***Synallaxis courseni*, new species**

*Type*.—Field Museum of Natural History No. 283686, from Bosque Ampay (Abancay), Dept. Apurimac, Peru. Altitude 9,000 feet. Adult male collected 3 September 1968 by Peter Hocking (original No. 552).

*Description of type*.—Forehead dark gray; crown and nape cinnamon-rufous; back, rump, and upper tail coverts dark gray, very faintly tinged with brown; wing coverts and outer webs of remiges cinnamon-rufous, replaced by sooty black on the concealed inner webs of both, and on the tips of the latter; tail decidedly long, blackish except for a diffused rufous area bordering the feather shafts; feathers of chin and throat black, tipped with white, the gular area appearing finely barred; sides of head, neck, and under surface generally, uniform dark gray. Iris dark brown; bill black; tarsi and toes dark gray.

*Diagnosis*.—Similar to *Synallaxis brachyura* in general appearance but tail notably longer, as in *Synallaxis subpudica*. In all other respects nearest *S. brachyura chapmani*, but rufous coloring of crown, hindneck, and wings lighter, more cinnamon-rufous instead of rufous-chestnut; gray areas of head, back and under surface much clearer gray, with scarcely any tinge of brown; rectrices relatively narrow, dusky blackish on the margins and tips (instead of uniform olive-brown), and with a distinct rufous area extending along both sides of the shafts.

*Measurements* (in mm).—*S. courseni* 3 ♂♂ (including type), wing (flat) 61–63 (62.7); tail 102–112 (107.7); culmen (from base) 14–15 (14.3). *S. brachyura chapmani* 11 adults, wing 55–61 (59.5); tail 67–82 (73.7); culmen 15–17 (16). *S. subpudica* 26 adults, wing 59–68 (63.2); tail 93–111 (100.5); culmen 13–15 (14.3).

*Distribution*.—Known only from central-southern Peru, in the extensive area of forest intermixed with brush at altitudes of 8,000 to about 11,000 feet on the mountains northwest of the city of Abancay, northern Apurimac.

*Remarks*.—The composite appearance of *Synallaxis courseni*, in which are combined the extraordinarily long tail of *S. subpudica* and the uniformly dark gray under surface of *S. brachyura*, suggests strong affinities with both, the three probably comprising a superspecies. The integrity of each species appears secure by reason of their mutually exclusive major characters, among which should be included the distinctive bicolored rectrices of *courseni*. The latter, a bird of the temperate and perhaps upper subtropical zones, apparently is separated from its nearest relative, *S. brachyura* of western Ecuador, by more than 700 miles.

The new species is named in honor of C. Blair Coursen, whose interest in neotropical birds and timely generosity in support of field work have resulted in important Peruvian collections, of which the holotype is a part. A dedicated and gifted amateur ornithologist of wide interests, Mr. Coursen is co-author (with E. R. Ford and C. C. Sanborn) of "Birds of the Chicago region" (1934) and has conducted field studies in several tropical American countries. I am grateful to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History and Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for permission to examine their specimens.—EMMET R. BLAKE, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605*. Accepted 11 Mar. 70.