

Length	Chord of wing	Longest rectrix
173.99	99.82	72.64
166.37	99.82	69.34
173.99	98.29	70.86
171.45	96.52	73.40
166.37	97.79	71.37
163.32	97.02	67.56
168.91	93.98	66.80
168.66	98.80	71.12
168.66	94.74	70.61

The minimum extremes of the females for both seasons represent the actual size of the two smallest ones. In the males, however, these were obtained from different specimens. It will be noticed that the wing and tail measurements of the smallest males and the largest females overlap. Where there is such wide individual deviation, it is remarkable that the general averages of the two series differ so little. This is further illustrated in the appended table of the means of three groups of females—the product of three days' shooting (Nov. 24, 29, Dec. 8, 1888) in a single field:

No. Spec.	Length	Extent	Chord of wing	Longest rectrix
13	168.40	308.10	96.26	69.34
20	169.16	308.36	96.01	68.32
12	169.16	308.36	96.01	69.34

The great uniformity with which the Horned Larks of this section fall within the limits prescribed for *pratricula*, evinces that they are drawn from the centre of distribution of the subspecies during the breeding season and not from the confines of the habitat of another form.

(To be concluded.)

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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF CYPSELIDÆ OF THE GENUS *CHÆTURA*, WITH A NOTE ON THE DIABLOTIN.

BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

### *Chætura dominicana colardeaui*.

*Chætura*, LAWRENCE, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1885, p. 623.

*Male*.—Crown, lores, and upper plumage black; rump brownish ash-color; upper tail-coverts brownish black; tail black; the spines project

three sixteenths of an inch beyond the webs; wings black; the secondaries and tertiaries at their ends are edged with ashy; chin, throat, and upper part of breast dark grayish cinereous; lower part of breast and abdomen smoky brown; a stripe of clearer brown down the middle of the abdomen; under tail-coverts black; bill and feet black.

Length (skin)  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches; wing  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ; tail to end of spines,  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ; spines,  $\frac{3}{16}$ .  
Type in American Museum of Natural History, New York.

HABITAT.—Guadeloupe, West Indies.

REMARKS. This species at first sight somewhat resembles *C. dominicana* from Dominica, but differs in having the upper plumage rather blacker, and the ash-color of the rump less in extent; in their under plumage they are quite different, the new subspecies having the throat, neck and upper part of the breast grayish cinereous; the lower part of the breast and abdomen are smoky brown; while in the other the entire under plumage is of a clear brown, with a few grayish feathers on the upper part of the throat; in the Dominica bird the under tail-coverts are dark brown, and the feet yellowish; in the Guadeloupe bird the under tail-coverts and the feet are black; the tail feathers of the new subspecies are narrower than those of *C. dominicana*; in this the feathers are broader and continue so to their ends, those of the Guadeloupe bird being somewhat tapering.

It is with pleasure I confer upon this species the name of my friend, Dr. St. Felix Colardeau, who has shown much intelligent interest in procuring the birds of Gaudeloupe.

I have been desirous of obtaining this bird ever since it was noticed in a list sent by Dr. Colardeau in 1885, and have had promises to endeavor to procure it from both him and his son; why it was not obtained sooner is explained in Dr. Colardeau's letter; he writes under date of August 5 as follows:

“After the return of my son from the United States he was so long and so dangerously ill from pleuro-pneumonia that I gave up entirely going hunting for birds, and my work away from woods and fields prevents me also to do as before. My son is now well again, and I have been able to make a few small collections. I have a number of sea and water birds which I intend to send you.

“This day I send you by mail the small Swift I have spoken of; they are very scarce in town, where I live now, and cannot get them any more, as we used to, at my old home in the moun-

tains. I succeeded in shooting this one from the window of my room about three months since.

“Perhaps it is a new bird, perhaps it is not; it is the same *Chætura* I described to you some years ago.”

In a letter dated Nov. 11, in reply to one from me wishing more specimens, etc., he says:

“I always thought as you did at first, that the Swift I sent you was no other than the Dominican bird, *C. dominicana*, from the written description I had taken of it, when I could easily procure many specimens. I will try hard to send you more specimens, but I am no more residing where it is easy to get them.

“I believe I have already told you that the small Swift must breed here, as those we had shot on my plantation in June had hard shelled eggs ready to be laid.”

Mr. Cory kindly lent me a specimen of this species collected for him by Mr. Winch in Guadeloupe, which agrees in every respect with the type.

#### NOTE ON THE DIABLOTIN.

Young Mr. Colardeau informed me, when here, that he understood the Diablotin had returned to Guadeloupe. I requested him to get all the information he could respecting it. Dr. Colardeau writes me:

“I do not believe the Diablotin is extinct in our Island; only we have no more the old sportsmen who used to go after them out of pure frolic, with plenty of dogs and black servants, when I was a child some fifty years ago. The Diablotin is not pure black, that I feel certain from distinct recollection, and you may consider the specimens sent by the old Dr. L’Herminier as correct, as he was one of those old sportsmen I have just spoken of, who, in company with my great uncles, grandfather and other relatives and friends used to go after them amongst the rocks and mountains surrounding the Soufrière. A few years ago, even as low as Camp Jacob, there was a Diablotin caught by a dog in a hole in the bank of a mountain stream. The master of the dog was satisfied to eat the bird, and I only knew of it when it was too late. The bird was black above and white below, crooked beak, and webbed feet.”

From the description given by Dr. Colardeau of the specimen obtained in Gaudeloupe lately, it was probably *Æstrelata hæsitata*, which species Prof. Alfred Newton determined the specimens sent by L'Herminier to Lafresnaye to be.

Pere Labat gives a black figure of it, and also describes it as being black; the question arises whether there are two birds bearing the name of Diablotin, or whether his description is erroneous.

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *RAMPHOCELUS* FROM COSTA RICA.

BY GEORGE K. CHERRIE.

### *Ramphocelus costaricensis* sp. nov.

Above, whole head varying from a dusky slate black to a slate gray; back and scapulars dusky yellowish olive; rump and upper tail-coverts ochraceous rufous of varying intensity in the different specimens. Wings dusky brownish black, inner webs of quills darkest; tail blackish. Below, chin and throat grayish; breast ochraceous rufous like the rump; the rest of lower parts yellowish olive, darker along the sides. "Bill black with plumbeous base. Feet, dark plumbeous." Female similar.

Measurements (in inches) of six skins.

Number	Locality	Date	Sex	Wing	Tail feathers	Exposed culmen	From nostril to tip of bill	Gonys	Tarsus	
2181	Pozo Azul	Nov. 10, 1887	♂	3.14	3.20	2.74	.60	.50	.38	.94
2182	" "	" 8, "	♂	3.07	3.20	2.75	.58	.50	.37	.88
3271	" "	Sept. 12, 1889	♂	3.05	3.22	2.92	.63	.50	.36	.85
3272	" "	" " "	♂	2.93	3.19	2.74	.64	.52	.37	.86
3273	" "	" 9, "	♂	3.06	3.30	2.87	.63	.50	—	.92
3274	" "	" 9, "	♂	3.16	3.10	2.65	.62	.50	.38	.87
Average				3.07	3.20	2.78	.62	.50	.37	.89