

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW QUAIL-DOVE FROM THE
WEST INDIES.

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[By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

While examining some doves labeled *Geotrygon mystacea* I was struck by the variations exhibited by specimens from the different parts of its range. My material has not been sufficient to work these out satisfactorily, but the following species is so very distinct that I take this opportunity of describing it.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. A. Allen, of the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Charles B. Cory, of the Field Columbian Museum, and to Mr. Outram Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, for the loan of specimens.

***Geotrygon sabæ*, sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female, No. 80,982, U. S. National Museum, Saba Island, W. I., collected by F. A. Ober.

Characters.—Differs from *Geotrygon mystacea* in being darker above, in having the breast light hazel passing into vinaceous-rufous (vinaceous-cinnamon in *mystacea*), the belly cinnamon-rufous, the lining of the wings darker, and the tail darker and more strongly edged with a darker shade of brown.

Measurements.—Wing, 170; tail, 89; exposed culmen, 21 mm.

Remarks.—Schlegel (Mus. Pays-Bas, Columbæ, 1873, 164) gives the type of Temminck's *Columba mystacea* as coming from the Island of Hayti. I know of no recent record of the bird from that island. Temminck's plate represents a bird without the dark rictal stripe and with lighter underparts than any specimen I have been able to examine. The U. S. National Museum possesses a specimen from Culebra Island (reported from here for the first time) that comes nearer the plate of *mystacea* than any other specimen in the series before me. I take it to represent true *mystacea* and have compared the Saba bird with it. The type of *sabæ*, though a female, is so very different from any of the other specimens before me that I am unable to explain these differences on account of sex. The dark color of the breast serves to distinguish it at a glance from *mystacea*.