

**CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF DOMINICA FROM COLLECTIONS
MADE FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BY FREDERICK A.
OBER, TOGETHER WITH HIS NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.**

By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

In the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, vol. 1, p. 46, I called attention to the explorations in the Lesser Antilles that were being made by Mr. F. A. Ober, giving an account of his progress up to that time in the island of Dominica, and stating that when his final collection from there was received, a catalogue of the birds obtained and noticed by him would be published.

When his last collection came to hand, it was found that the publication of the promised catalogue would be delayed; it was therefore deemed best to give a provisional list of the species in *Forest and Stream*; this appeared in the issue of December 6, 1877.

On his second visit to Dominica, Mr. Ober had an attack of fever, which debarred him from concluding his explorations satisfactorily. Several species that were seen by him, but not procured, he was able to identify. A few other birds were heard of, but the descriptions given of them were insufficient for their identification; these being undoubted inhabitants of the island are included in the catalogue, with such information as he could obtain concerning them. Some of these species Mr. Ober hopes to have procured for him by residents, who promised to make efforts to do so.

Mr. Ober is entitled to much credit for his industry and perseverance thus far, and his notes testify that his heart is in the enterprise.

Besides birds, he has sent valuable collections in other branches of science.

I have received from him, by way of introduction to this catalogue, the following interesting account of the physical features of Dominica, with incidents of his movements, localities where birds were procured, etc.

All of his communications and notes are designated by quotation-marks.

The arrangement of this catalogue is the same as that of the *Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium*, by Messrs. Selater and Salvin.

"The island of Dominica is 25 miles in length by 16 in breadth. It is mountainous in character, consisting of a central ridge running north and south, from which chain project hills and spurs east and west; thus the entire island is but a succession of hills and valleys, the latter ever narrowing into ravines and gorges, from which pour foaming streams and torrents.

"The coast-line is for the greater part bold and precipitous, some of the hills slope gently to the sea, and some of the valleys open upon spacious bays, which, though not deep, afford good anchorage on the Caribbean side for small craft. From the volcanic nature of this island,

being thrust up from the great ocean bed, the water all around it is of great depth, and vessels anchoring off Roseau, the principal town, often run out sixty fathoms of chain before bringing up.

“Thus when I speak of the small depth of the bays, I mean the small indentations they make in the general line of the shore. The valleys and low hills of the Caribbean shore are tolerably well cultivated, principally in sugar-cane; the provision ground of the negroes reaching often to high hill-tops.

“On the east or Atlantic side, called the ‘windward’ side of the island (from the fact that the prevailing wind here is the northeast trade), are a few fine, though isolated, sugar estates, situated where deep bays give opportunity for boats to land. The nature of the east side of the island is more rocky, and the seas more boisterous than the west or Caribbean slope. The almost unceasing trade-wind keeps the Atlantic in a tumult, in striking contrast to the calms of the Caribbean waters.

“As this island is about midway the group known as the Lesser Antilles, being in lat. $15^{\circ} 20'$ — $15^{\circ} 45'$; long. $61^{\circ} 13'$ — $61^{\circ} 30'$, it possesses much in its fauna that will prove of interest; and doubtless some species will be found to inhabit it that exist neither north nor south of it; some that are found north but not south, and *vice versa*. Possessing as it does the highest mountain peak in any island south of Jamaica, and a range of mountains and hills of 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height, the essential character of the fauna is mountainous. In fact, along the coast and in the low valleys, very few birds are obtained more than the ordinary sparrows, hummingbirds, etc. Though not rich in either numbers or species, Dominica contains its best birds in high mountain valleys. Each kind has its characteristic haunt and breeding place, as will be described hereafter, and the majority of them are in the mountains and mountain valleys.

“My first collecting ground was at Landat (see Forest and Stream), a mountain vale 1,500 feet above the Caribbean Sea, at the head of the Roseau Valley, which latter made up into the mountains from the sea for nearly five miles. The average temperature of this region was ten degrees lower than at Roseau, 1,500 feet below; at night a blanket (sometimes two) was necessary. I collected here for a month—the month of March—during which period I visited the famous Boiling Lake, a chain of lakes on the mountains, the near mountain peaks, and thoroughly explored every accessible ravine and valley within a day’s walk.

“After shipping my collections to the Smithsonian, I started for the central ‘windward’ portion of the island, where reside the last vestiges of the Carib Indians. With them I resided six weeks, in a cabin close by the Atlantic shore. It was while there that I procured the Imperial Parrot, and other birds of less note, by making forced marches into the high mountains.

“I should note here that everything I needed had to be transported

over the rugged mountain trails, from the town of Roseau, a journey of a day and night, upon the heads of men and women.

"In May I returned to Roseau. In June I passed a week in Landat, finding little difference in the birds, except in the scarcity of the Hummingbirds and a few others. I also spent more than a week, in June, at Batalic, a lime plantation midway the west coast, where I found a few birds which I had seen in the mountains more abundant, and one species—the Tropic Bird—breeding in the cliffs.

"During May and June I was exhausted by a low type of fever, the result of exposure, which greatly retarded my efforts to secure greater numbers of birds. From subsequent observation, however, and enquiry, I am certain that nearly all the resident species have been obtained. The very few not procured will be noticed further on.

"On the 15th September I returned to Dominica, after a visit to some of the northern islands. Making my way at once to the mountains, I had opportunity to note the changes that the seasons would make in the time which had elapsed since my first visit. The Hummingbirds were in great abundance, the 'Mountain Whistler' nearly silent, and *perdu*; the Flycatchers same as usual; Wrens about the same, but more in the deep woods; sparrows, finches, etc., in customary abundance; the 'game birds'—'Perdix', 'Ramier', and 'Tourterelles'—in abundance.

"During this visit I succeeded in procuring the only species of Owl known in Dominica. The first was a female, September 18, sitting upon its nest, which contained three eggs freshly laid. The following day brought in the male; this was the only find of value.

"Strange to say, my old enemy, fever, visited me again, the first night I spent in the mountains; though I had been exempt from it for two months, and my last visit there had aided in its cure. This discouraging welcome to Dominica (I do not, though, attribute it solely to the climate) prevented me from going out on a projected trip to the mountains beyond for the Parrot; I sent my men but they failed to get the bird.

"The migratory species had arrived in small numbers—Golden Plover, Sandpiper, etc.—and the water of Roseau Bay was black in places with large flocks of the 'twa-oo', a species of tern. These birds only come before a gale and are harbingers of a storm. September being a hurricane month, very few sailing craft of any kind were about; being, especially in the French islands, hauled up, to remain so through October.

"Much to my regret, I was unable to procure the Parrot, but little larger than our Carolina Parrot, and the 'Diablotin'. The latter was, twenty years ago, in great abundance, breeding in the mountains; but of late years it has become so scarce as to appear almost mythical. Its disappearance is attributed to the depredations of the 'Manacon', a worthless marsupial animal, introduced into Dominica years ago. Although the Diablotin is, probably, identical with the Petrel found in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica (the *Prion Caribbaea*, as suggested by

Prof. Baird); yet it would be very interesting to know exactly what it is. If it is possibly remaining, I have hopes of securing it, as my friend H. A. Alford Nicholls, M. D., of Roseau, has offered a large reward for it; if obtained, to be sent to the Smithsonian.

"Having been in the island during the breeding season, I procured many nests and eggs, which are, probably, little known. Nests and eggs of three species of Hummingbirds, the 'Perdix', Owl, and many smaller birds, were received.

"There are few sea-birds resident here, or even visitors for the purpose of incubation, owing to the precipitous character of the coast, and the absence of small islands or detached rocky islets.

"From Dominica I sailed south to St. Vincent, where I remain at this present writing (October).

"Trusting you will make allowance for the many imperfections in this (necessarily) hasty sketch; and hoping to give you full and perfect descriptions when I have leisure to elaborate my notes,

"I remain, faithfully yours,

"FREDERICK A. OBER.

"It would be wrong in me to conclude without acknowledging the obligations I am under to a few gentlemen of Dominica.

"To the President of the island, C. M. Eldridge, Esq., for kindly letters of introduction to other islands; for much proffered aid and a great deal of information.

"To Dr. Imray, the oldest medical man in the island, one who has done much to develop the natural resources of Dominica; a botanist of repute, especially an authority on Tropical plants, to him I am indebted for many favors. Free access to a large and well-selected library was one of the many delights his generous nature afforded me.

"To the Hon. William Stedman, for many and delicate acts of kindness.

"To Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, for numerous favors. I never can repay the debt I owe these two gentlemen, for the many and continued attentions during my stay. At the time when I was sick with fever, it was to the attentions of the one and the skilful medical attendance of the other, that my rapid recovery was due. The period of convalescence, passed principally in their society, will continue a very pleasant remembrance.

"The information possessed by Dr. Nicholls upon wood and mountain life was freely placed at my disposal, and it was owing chiefly to his suggestions, that my collecting grounds were so judiciously chosen as to comprise within their areas the characteristic birds of the island. Upon botany and ethnology the doctor is well informed, and his collections and herbarium promise to become very valuable.

"These remarks will perhaps account for my protracted stay in the island, and for a lingering regret at leaving it."

Fam. TURDIDÆ.

1. *Margarops herminieri* (Lafr.).—Local name, "Morer".

"This curious bird inhabits the high woods; especially does it delight in the comparatively open places beneath the towering *gomier* trees, where perhaps a narrow trail has left the ground bare of leaves. There you will find where it has been scratching with its strong feet. It is very shy, and being very good as food it is sought by the mountaineers, who call it to them by imitating its cry of distress.

"Iris tea-color. Not abundant.

"Length, ♂, 9 in.; alar extent, 15; wing, 5; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$."

Of this fine species there are five males in the collection, but no females, and Mr. Ober makes no allusion to their plumage. It has not before been recorded from Dominica.

2. *Margarops densirostris* (Vieill.).—Local name, "Gros Grive".

"These birds are much esteemed for their flesh, and are hunted without mercy, when the law allows. They are thus made very shy; at St. Marie, however, in the Indian section of Dominica, where they are not shot, they are very tame, and frequent the mango and bread-fruit trees about the habitations of the people. They lay in April and May.

"Iris very pale straw color; bill horn color.

"Length, ♂, 11 in.; alar extent, $17\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $5\frac{3}{4}$."

The sexes do not differ apparently in size or plumage; not before noted from Dominica.

3. *Margarops montanus* (Vieill.).—Local name, "Grive".

"Abundant, but much reduced in numbers by being shot for food. In habits and actions much resembles the American Mockingbird, without his song, however.

"Iris yellow.

"Length, ♂, $9\frac{1}{2}$; alar extent, $14\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$; tail, 4."

Numerous specimens of both sexes sent; no apparent difference between them; also not sent before from this island.

The nest of this species is composed of fine roots loosely woven together; the inside with the smallest roots, but no soft lining; it is very shallow, and appears small for the size of the bird, having a diameter of but four and a half inches; there are two eggs of a uniform beautiful aqua-marine blue, measuring $1.20 \times .75$.

Collected at Shawford Valley, May 10.

4. *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*, Gould.—Local name, "Trembleur".

"Its name is given from its habit of quivering its wings. Abundant in the mountains and lower valleys. (See letter in Forest and Stream.)

"Length, ♂, 9 in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 4; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$."

The sexes are alike in colors and dimensions. This species has not been obtained before in Dominica.

5. "Thrush"?

"Another bird was described by several persons, something like the Thrush, but with yellow bill and legs. Its egg is like the Cuckoo's in shape and color."

Of course, it can only be determined by examples.

Fam. SYLVIIDÆ.

6. *Myiadestes genibarbis*, Sw.—Native name, "Siffleur Montagne; Solitaire".

"The Mountain Whistler frequents the most gloomy and solitary mountain gorges, seeking the most retired situations—not so much from shyness as from some inherent proclivity.

"Found on the borders of open glades in the morning when seeking its favorite food, the berries of a tall shrub. Never found below 1,000 feet altitude. Its mellow notes are first heard from a dark ravine above Shawford Valley as one ascends the mountains. (See Forest and Stream.)

"Length, ♂, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 11; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$."

The female differs from the male only in having a wash of brownish-olive across the middle of the back. There is a single specimen of the young; in this each feather of the upper plumage terminates with black, and has an adjoining subterminal round spot of bright rufous; the feathers of the under plumage are more rufous, with the terminal edge less distinctly marked with black; the throat and under tail-coverts are light rufous; the tail as in the adult. This specimen is spotted much in the same manner as the figure of the young of *M. ralloides*, in Exotic Ornithology, by Messrs. Selater and Salvin, pl. xxxii.

The *M. armillatus* of Bonaparte (Cons. Av. i, p. 335) agrees best with *M. genibarbis*, Sw., as he describes the parotic region to be black, striped with white, a character peculiar to that species. He has Swainson's name as a synonym, considering the two to be identical; he gives for the habitat Central America and the Antilles.

Prof. Baird (Rev. Am. Birds, p. 421) proves that *M. armillatus*, Gosse, from Jamaica, is not *M. armillatus*, Vieill., and names it *M. solitarius*. The true habitat of Vieillot's species is thus left unsettled, and I believe no authentic examples of it are known to exist in any collection. Vieillot, in his original description (Ois. Am. Sept. i, p. 69, pl. 42), gives the Antilles as its habitat; afterwards (Enc. Méth. ii, p. 824) specifies Martinique as a locality.

Mr. Selater (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 270) considers the last reference as probably applying to *M. genibarbis*. Mr. Selater also says:—"It is possible that *M. armillatus verus* may be the species from St. Domingo, where there is an unknown representative of this form."

M. genibarbis is noted from St. Lucia by Mr. Selater in his list of the birds of that island (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 263). The specimens from there he compared with two examples of *M. genibarbis* in the Swainson collection at Cambridge, and found them to agree.

Swanson erroneously supposed this bird to be a native of Africa; his figure of it (*Nat. Lib.* vol. xiii), to be correct, should have the chin and an elongated quadrate mark on the lower eyelid pure white.

There are in the collection twelve adult specimens, which are apparently in full plumage, having the pure white chin and rictal stripe separated by a black line, and the white patch on the lower eyelid; in the young example, the white marks are wanting.

Fam. TROGLODYTIDÆ.

7. *Thryothorus rufescens*, Lawr., *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* v. 1, p. 47.

"Wren, ♂, Landat, March 3, 1877.

"Found only in the deep, dark woods, or on their borders. I shot several, but lost them in the rank vegetation. They have a most delicious song, like, I think, our Northern Wood Wren. Will have more extended notes at some future day. I just missed getting its egg. In June I found a nest, and had my boys watching it for eggs, but some one robbed it before me. When I left, I told the people of the valley to procure the eggs and save them for me.

"It (the nest) was merely a few straws in a small hole in a bank, about six inches deep, with a diameter of four inches.

"Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $6\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

"Iris bright hazel. Abundant in the deep woods, but hard to find from its terrestrial habits. Native name, 'Osenoli'."

In the first two collections, there being but the type-specimen, I requested Mr. Ober to get more; in the last collection are four others, but all are males. These were procured in September, and are of a darker or brownish-rufous, no doubt owing to the different season.

Fam. SYLVICOLIDÆ.

8. *Siurus nævius* (Bodd.).

"Wagtail—very scarce.

"Shot while feeding about the pools of the upper waters of the Roseau River, a rocky stream of cascades and water-falls.

"Length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $9\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$, ♀."

9. *Dendrœca virens* (Gm.).

"Only one seen; very ragged in plumage.

"Length, 5 in.; alar extent, $7\frac{3}{8}$; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$, ♂."

10. *Dendrœca petechia* (Linn.).

"Yellow Warbler, 'Titien'. Shawford Valley, March 21.

"Abundant on the plantations of the east coast, overgrown with guava-bushes.

"Length, 5 in.; alar extent, $7\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$, ♀."

"A nest with eggs was taken at St. Marie in April."

The nest is well shaped and compactly formed; is composed of fine dried grasses, the outside of coarser materials, strips of bark, and long,

thin, flag-like leaves, intermixed with a little cotton. It seems large for the bird; it measures in outside diameter 5 inches; height, $2\frac{1}{4}$; depth of cavity, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. There are three eggs of a dull white, sparingly speckled with reddish-brown, except on the larger end, where the spots are confluent; two measure in length .75 of an inch and .50 in breadth; the other is .55 in breadth.

11. *Dendrocca plumbea*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. v. 1, p. 47.

There are no notes which apply to this species.

12. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.).

"Redstart, 'Chat'. Not common.

"Length, 5 in.; alar extent, $7\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$, ♂."

Fam. VIREONIDÆ.

13. *Vireosylvia calidris* var. *dominicana*, Lawr.

"I think this bird is a summer visitor only, as I did not see it before March 19, and then only one. It increased in numbers in April and May; was abundant in the Indian Settlement. I send nest and eggs. Its note makes it conspicuous.

"Length, ♂, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $10\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $2\frac{5}{8}$."

"Local name, 'Chewiek'. Iris hazel."

Male.—Upper plumage olive-green, purer and brighter than in *V. calidris*; cap of a clear ash, rather darker than that of var. *barbatula*; a distinct blackish line along the edge of the crown; superciliary stripe ashy-white; cheeks with a tinge of buff; lores and a stripe behind the eye dusky; a blackish moustachial line along each side of the throat; the under plumage is grayish-white, purer on the upper part of the throat and abdomen; sides pale olive-green; under wing-coverts yellow; crissum pure pale yellow; the bill is large and darker than in its allies; the upper mandible is blackish horn-color, the under whitish horn-color.

The female differs in no respects from the male.

The only necessary direct comparison with any of the West Indian or moustached form is with var. *barbadense*, Ridg.; that and the present bird only having a distinct dark line along the edge of the crown. The type of *barbadense* was kindly sent me by Mr. Ridgway: it is smaller than the *Dominica* species; the plumage above is of a lighter brownish-olive, the cap not so dark, the under parts of a pale yellowish or creamy-white, and the bill of a fleshy-brown color; in general coloring they are quite unlike.

The nest (marked "St. Marie, April 22, '77") is not the beautiful structure described by Dr. Brewer (N. Am. Birds, v. 1, p. 362) belonging to *V. calidris* of Jamaica, and does not appear to have been pensile; it is composed of fine grasses, intermixed on the outside with a coarser kind of a long, thin, ribbon-like form. There are but two eggs—perhaps not the full complement; they are of a dull white, rather closely spotted with

pale chocolate, confluent at the larger end; they measure in length .80 of an inch by .60 in breadth.

The nest measures in outside diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; depth of cavity $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Fam. HIRUNDINIDÆ.

14. *Progne dominicensis* (Gm.).

“‘Hirondelle.’ Resident.

“The first seen was shot at Mountain Lake, 2,300 feet above sea-level, March 23; later in the season I found a few on the Atlantic side, in June, breeding in the cliffs at Batalie, on the Caribbean shore.

“Length, $7\frac{3}{8}$ in.; alar extent, 15; wing, $5\frac{3}{4}$, ♂.”

Fam. CÆREBIDÆ.

15. *Certhiola dominicana*, Taylor.—Local name, “Sucrier”. St. Marie.

“I procured a series of these, that you might be able to determine better the local differences.

“Everywhere abundant in lowland and mountain valleys; breeds in old plantations from March through to the rainy season. I send nests and eggs.

“Length, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in.; alar extent, $7\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$.

“I put in a few nests of these birds to illustrate the domed structure—a character that prevails among the smaller birds—grass-birds, Sparrow and Sucrier.”

There are two nests, globular in form, one containing three eggs, obtained at St. Marie, April 20, 1877; the other with four eggs, in Shawford Valley, in April. For the size of the bird, the nest seems a bulky structure, but is elaborately made; the inside is of fine grasses; the outside of fine wiry stems of some plant, and the thin flag-like leaves spoken of in describing the nest of *Dendroica petechia*; it has an outside diameter of 5 inches, the depth of the cavity 3 inches, across the opening $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The entrance is on the side. The eggs are dull white, some closely spotted with pale reddish-brown; others less so; some with the spots confluent at the larger end; others having them distinct. They measure .68 of an inch in length by .53 in breadth.

Fam. TANAGRIDÆ.

16. *Euphonia flavifrons* (Sparm.).

“‘L'oiseau de St. Pierre.’ Rare.

“Feeds among the tops of trees in the high woods; said to occur, also, on the coast; stomach full of small green seeds.

“Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 8; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$; tail, $1\frac{5}{8}$, ♀.”

There is in the collection but one specimen, a female, which I suppose to be this species. I wrote Mr. Ober to endeavor to get others, but he was unable to do so. I have a male specimen from Porto Rico of *E.*

sclateri, presented by Dr. Gundlach—this is much smaller than the above, measuring in length $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; wing, $2\frac{5}{16}$; tail, $1\frac{7}{16}$.

17. *Saltator guadeloupensis*, Lafr.—Local name, "Grosbec".

"Found among the bushes and low trees fringing the cleared valleys and open plateaus. Its clear note makes it a marked bird in the breeding season. Found eggs in May. Inhabitant of both coasts. Not abundant.

"Length, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{4}$; wing, 4; tail, $3\frac{5}{8}$, ♀.

"Length, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 4; tail, $3\frac{5}{8}$, ♂.

"Nest obtained at St. Marie, Indian country, May 1, 1877; lays from two to three eggs at a time."

The sexes do not differ in plumage. The nest is made of the stems of coarse grasses, and though appearing to be loosely put together, yet is quite compact; there are a few finer stems at the bottom of the cavity. The outer diameter is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, height 3 inches, depth of cavity $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The eggs are light greenish-blue, with a few irregular black markings on the larger end; the length is 1.06 of an inch, the width .80.

Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ.

18. *Loxigilla noctis* (Linn.).—Local name, Moisson; Père Noir; Sparrow.

"The male is black, the female gray, I have no doubt, as they are always seen together. Very common, especially on old plantations; make their nests in low trees and stout shrubs. The nest sent, with three eggs, was obtained in Shawford Valley, March 21, 1877.

"Length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 9; wing, 3; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$, ♂.

"Length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $8\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $2\frac{7}{8}$; tail, $2\frac{1}{8}$, ♀."

The nest under examination is placed in the upright trifurcated branch of a prickly shrub or tree, and is thus supported behind and on each side; it is a large and loosely formed structure, composed of fine stems of plants, dried leaves, and small, dried plants; it is covered over or domed, and has a large opening in front, the lower part, which is the nest proper, is more compact, and is lined at the bottom with fine, soft grasses or stems of plants; the height of the nest outside is 8 inches, the breadth 5; the opening in front has a diameter of 3 inches; depth of cavity, 2 inches. The complement of eggs is three. Those sent differ much in size and appearance. One is nearly white, marked with minute pale spots of reddish-brown, quite evenly distributed; this measures .80 by .62 of an inch. Another, of about the same size, is more conspicuously spotted; at the larger end densely so; size, .78 by .57. The last is much smaller, the spots larger and darker; it is closely spotted all over, the spots not confluent at the larger end; it measures .72 by .50.

Mr. Sclater speaks of the single specimen from St. Lucia (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 271), and referred to this species as differing from a Martinique

skin in having "no rufous at all on the crissum, and the superciliary mark shorter".

Five males in the collection from Dominica have the under tail-coverts rufous, of the same shade as that of the throat; the rufous line running from the bill is darker, and extends over the eye as far as upon a line with its centre. Probably the Dominica and Martinique birds are alike; but if other examples from St. Lucia prove to be without rufous crissums, it would seem to be a well marked variety.

The female from Dominica is, above, a brownish-olive, having the face, sides of the head, and upper tail-coverts tinged with rufous; the wing-coverts and tertials are edged with bright rufous; the under plumage is of a dark ashy-olive; the under tail-coverts are pale rufous.

Specimens of a *Loxigilla* collected in Guiana by Mr. A. H. Alexander (taxidermist), though similar in color and markings to examples of *L. noctis* from Dominica, are so much less in all their measurements that I think, at least, it may be considered a variety. The bill of the Guiana bird is much smaller, the under mandible of a brownish horn-color, being black in the West Indian bird; the under tail-coverts are of a paler rufous; the rufous of the throat more restricted, and the superciliary line extending beyond the eye.

The measurements of the two are as follows:—

Dominica bird, ♂, length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.; wing, 3; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Guiana bird, ♂, length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$; tail, 2; tarsus, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Viewed together, the skin of the West Indian bird appears to be nearly twice the bulk of the other.

I propose to distinguish the South American form by the name of *Loxigilla noctis* var. *propinqua*.

Mr. Alexander obtained quite a number of this small species in Guiana, but he had disposed of most of them before they came under my notice. Three males examined were alike in size and coloring. I was unable to find a female among the birds collected by him: this is easily accounted for; his object in making collections being to secure the more showy and saleable males.

Mr. Alexander informed me that they were not uncommon along the Essequibo River, and that he saw them also at Berbice.

The only citation of Guiana as a locality for *L. noctis* that I have noticed is by Bonaparte (Cons. Av. i, p. 493), viz, "Surinam"; he also gives Martinique.

19. *Phonipara bicolor* (Linn.).

"Si Si Yerbe; Grass-bird.

"Abundant everywhere; breeds in great numbers in Shawford Valley, three miles from the coast; nests in lime-trees.

"One with three eggs taken April, 1877; another with four eggs."

"Length, ♂, $4\frac{3}{8}$ in.; alar extent, $6\frac{7}{8}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$.

"Length, ♀, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $6\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$."

The nest is globular in shape, and is composed of fine roots and stems of plants, intermixed with thin, flag-like leaves; it is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad; the opening is 2 inches across; depth of the cavity, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The eggs are quite uniform in appearance; they are white, with a scarcely perceptible greenish tinge, sparingly speckled with reddish-brown, except on the larger end, where the examples vary in having the spots more or less confluent. They vary in size from .66 to .57 of an inch in length, and in breadth from .54 to .50.

Fam. TYRANNIDÆ.

20. *Elainea martinica* (Linn.).—Local name, "Quick".

"Rather abundant in the mountain valleys, especially in the lateral ravines bordering the glades of open pastures. In habits and cry resembling our Phœbe-bird.

"Length, ♂, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $10\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{2}$.

"Length, ♀, 6 in.; alar extent, 10; wing, $3\frac{3}{8}$."

Of this species, Mr. Ober sent nine examples. Mr. Scater (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 271) considers *E. riisii* from St. Thomas "undistinguishable" from *E. martinica*. I have but one specimen of *E. riisii*, which differs only from the Dominica bird in being light brownish-olive above; the upper plumage of *E. martinica* is dark olive; the difference may be seasonal. Mr. Scater also raises the question whether *E. pagana* "is really separable"; in five specimens, so-called, from Brazil, Guiana, and New Granada, the most marked difference from the West Indian bird is that the breast and abdomen are of a decided pale yellow. In *E. martinica*, the throat and breast are of a clear bluish-gray, the abdomen with just a tinge of yellow.

Mr. Scater (P. Z. S. 1870, p. 834) thinks that his *E. subpagana* will have to be reunited to *E. pagana*. I have one example of this form, from the City of Mexico, which is of a bright yellowish-olive above, and the abdomen of a fine clear light yellow. These differences may be due to geographical position.

21. *Myiarchus oberi*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. of Sci. v. 1, p. 48.—Local name, "Soleil coucher".

"It is so called because it utters its peculiar cry just at sunset; the hunters say when Soleil Coucher cries, it is time to make *ajoussa*, or camp. Obtained at Landat in March; not common.

"Length, ♂, 9 in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 4.

"Length, ♀, $8\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 4."

22. *Blacicus brunneicapillus*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. v. 1, p. 161.—Local name, "Goubemonche".

"Everywhere abundant in the ravines and dark valleys of the mountains.

"Length, ♂, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $8\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 2 $\frac{7}{8}$; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$."

23. *Tyrannus rostratus*, Sel.

"Pipere; Loggerhead."

"More an inhabitant of the lowlands than the mountains; found it abundant in St. Marie, Atlantic coast.

"Found a nest with two eggs, April 20, 1877.

"Length, ♂, $9\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 15; wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$.

"Length, ♀, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $15\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$."

The nest is rather loosely made, of small harsh-feeling roots and stems of plants, with no soft lining for the eggs; it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with a height of 2 inches, the cavity but half an inch deep. The two eggs are alike in size, but vary in shade of color: one is of a light reddish salmon color, with large conspicuous spots of a deep rusty-red, mostly around the larger end; the other is white, with a slight tinge of color, the spots smaller and less conspicuous. They measure 1.06 by .77.

Fam. TROCHILIDÆ.

24. *Eulampis jugularis* (Linn.).

"Large Crimson-throat Hummingbird."

"This species called 'Colibri' in *patois* French.

"This species is almost exclusively a frequenter of the high valleys of the mountains, though found lower down also. It delights in the plantain and provision grounds of the mountain sides, and there may be seen in early morning, glancing among the leaves, hovering over the flower clusters. In the open glades, also, it was abundant about the wild honeysuckle and flowering shrubs. It was easily approached, and many were caught for me by the little mountain boys, with native bird-lime, the juice (inspissated) of the bread-fruit tree.

"I did not find it anywhere common on the east, or Atlantic side of the island. Took a nest and two eggs in June. It breeds later in the season than the smallest species (the Crested). Nest built in bread-fruit tree. Have nests of the three species.

"Length, ♂, 5 in.; alar extent, $7\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$.

"Length, ♀, 5 in.; alar extent, $7\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 3."

This would seem to be a very abundant species, as Mr. Ober procured about fifty specimens. Most of these bear evidence of having been captured with bird-lime. The female differs only in the color of the throat being somewhat duller.

Mr. Ober speaks of having obtained "nests of the three species"; but none have been received.

25. *Eulampis holosericeus* (Linn.).

"Green or Blue-throated Hummingbird."

"This is not so abundant as the others. It prefers shade and seclusion. I noticed the curious habit first in this species, that it possesses in common with the larger, of flitting about in the dark forest, where a

gleam of light would penetrate. It would dart and double with rapidity, occasionally fluttering on suspended wing, like a Hawk, then dart off to a near twig, whence, after resting a while, it would renew its forage upon the diminutive insects sporting in the ray of dusky light.

"Procured a nest and two eggs, in June, from a 'cactus' tree."

"Length, ♂, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 6; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$."

26. *Thalurania wagleri* (Less.).

"White-throat Hummer." September, 1877.

"This bird I found tolerably abundant, principally in the shady mountain paths of the 'high woods'. I saw but one before (earlier in the year) in March, while on my way to the Boiling Lake. It may be the young of No. 368 or 369, but of this you can judge, as I send specimens of each kind. Inhabits the mountains.

"Length, ♀, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 6; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$."

Mr. Ober's note given above refers to the female of this species, of which two examples were sent in his last collection; also one male, No. 369; on the label of this specimen he wrote, "Purple-throat Hummer, ♂?". Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 6; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$." (No. 368 is *Eulampis holosericeus*.) This is the first allusion he has made to its being a distinct species, which is difficult to account for, as the male is also very different in appearance from the three other species found abundantly in the island. In his first collection, seven males of *T. wagleri* were sent, but there is no note or any comment to lead to the supposition that he considered it a fourth species—the three regular forms being the only ones spoken of.

The female of this species appears to have been more rarely obtained than the male.

It has the crown and upper tail-coverts bluish-green, the upper plumage and wing-coverts dark green tinged with golden; the middle tail-feathers are golden bronze, ending with greenish-blue; the other tail-feathers are greenish-blue, with their bases golden bronze, and ending with grayish-white; the lores, a line under the eye, and the ear-coverts are black; the under plumage is ashy-white; the bill is entirely black.

The procurement of the female establishes this species as being resident in Dominica.

27. *Orthorhynchus exilis* (Gm.).

"Small Crested Hummer."

"This species is called by the natives, 'Fou, Fou,' or 'crazy, crazy,' from its eccentric motions in the air.

"It is not uncommon along the coast and in the lower valleys. Almost the only species on the Atlantic side in April and May. Very abundant everywhere. Took first nest, March 20, in Shawford Valley; found others as late as June 20, at Batalie, on sea-coast.

"In order of numerical abundance this species can be first, the Crimson-throat second, the Blue or Violet-breast third.

"Length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $4\frac{3}{4}$; wing, 2, ♂."

Fam. CYPSELIDÆ.

23. *Chætura poliura* (Temm.).

“Swift.

“This bird only appears after a rain, then in great numbers, darting swiftly about, disappearing as soon as it has ceased. In March saw but three at the Mountain Lake, 2,300 feet. In June they had descended to the valleys, and were even sporting about the seashore.

“They live and breed among the cliffs, high up the mountains and near the waterfalls of the Roseau Valley. Abundant also at Batalie, lower down the coast.

“Length, ♂, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in.; alar extent, $10\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $3\frac{7}{8}$.”

I have never seen an example of *C. poliura*, but as the bird under investigation agrees in plumage quite well with the description of that species given by Mr. Sclater (P. Z. S. 1865, p. 611), I have called it so provisionally; it differs, however, in dimensions, the wing especially being shorter.

29. “Swift.”

“A species of Swift, intermediate in size between the small Swift and the large Martin.”

This species has not yet been obtained.

Fam. ALCEDINIDÆ.

30. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.).

“Kingfisher.”

“Seen in April on the windward side of Dominica, and again in September on the leeward, or Caribbean side. In September it appears more plentiful. Undoubtedly a resident.”

No specimen sent, but is this species without much doubt.

Fam. CUCULIDÆ.

31. *Coccyzus minor* (Gm.).

“Cuckoo; Manioc.”

“Not very plentiful; unsuspecting, stupid; its cry similar to that of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but more prolonged, sharper, and harsher.

“Nesting in May; inhabits the low shrubs and trees of old clearings.

“Length, ♂, 13 in.; alar extent, $16\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$.”

“Length, ♀, $13\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 17; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$.”

Fam. PSITTACIDÆ.

32. *Chrysotis augusta* (Vig.).

“‘Cicero.’

“Except in the rainy season, this bird can only be found in the high mountains, where grow the mountain palm, *gomier*, *bois diable*, and other

trees of mountain growth, upon the seeds of which it feeds. It is there abundant, yet shy and difficult to approach. Its cry is harsh, resembling the call of a Wild Turkey. Morning and evening they call one to another for perhaps an hour; during the rest of the day they remain silent, except for an occasional cry. When a gun is fired, they all cry out, and then keep perfect silence. They do not seem to associate in flocks at this season, like the Parrot, but are found more often in pairs. They breed in the hollow tops of high trees, and the young are rarely taken. When caught young, they readily learn to talk. The only manner in which one is secured alive is by being wounded.

"It descends to the valleys in the rainy season to some extent, but prefers the mountains. At that time they are very fat, excellent eating, and much hunted.

"I made an excursion into their mountain fastnesses, camping on their feeding grounds, but only secured three (though assisted by the Carib hunters), the country was so wild and the birds so shy.

"Length, ♂, 21 in.; alar extent, 35; wing, 11.

"Length, ♀, 22 in.; alar extent, 36; wing, 12."

As specimens of the Imperial Parrot are exceedingly rare in collections, and a description of it not readily available, I thought that one taken from the examples before me might prove useful.

The male has on the front adjoining the bill a narrow line of a dark warm brown color; the feathers of the crown and occiput are of a rather dull bluish-green, with lighter terminations; the feathers of the hind neck, and extending around in front, are bronzy-green, with a broad subterminal band of dark bluish-purple, and ending with black; the feathers of the back, wing-coverts, flanks, and upper tail-coverts are of a bright, rather dark green, conspicuously edged with lighter or verditer-green; these terminal edgings are crossed with waving dark marks like water-lines; the tail-feathers are reddish-brown, having their bases green for a short space, the two middle feathers show more green; the edge of the wing is scarlet (not the flexure); the primaries have their outer webs bright dark green for two-thirds their length, the terminal third of a brownish-purple; the first quill is entirely, and the inner webs of the others are of a dark purple; all but the first primary have their outer webs incised; the secondaries have their outer webs green; on the outer two a speculum of scarlet; the inner webs are dark purple; on the chin and sides of the throat adjoining, the feathers are dark brown, with coppery terminations; the ear-coverts are brown, ending with light bluish; the feathers of the lower part of the throat, the breast, and abdomen are bronzy dark olive, broadly marked subterminally with an opalescent band of violet-purple and light blue, changeable in different lights, their terminal margins are black; the upper mandible is dark horn-color, with a whitish mark on its side at the base; the under mandible is lighter; the feet blackish-brown.

The female specimen has the colors a little duller, and the speculum less bright, but it may be possibly younger.

33. "Parrot."

"Not abundant.

"This bird, about the size of our Northern Carolina Parrot, but more robust, is very shy, keeping mainly to the higher mountains; sometimes descending to the inner valleys, to feed upon the wild guavas.

"It is sometimes captured by being wing-broken, and takes kindly to confinement, but unlike its larger brother, the Cicero, does not learn to talk. It congregates in small flocks. It is oftener shot in the months between September and February. A very beneficent law of Dominica prohibits the shooting of Parrots, Ciceros, Ramiers, &c., in any other months, thus ensuring protection during the breeding season."

This species was not obtained by Mr. Ober.

Fam. STRIGIDÆ.

34. *Strix flammea* var. *nigrescens*, Lawr.

"Owl. 'Shawah.'

"Very rare; its cry even is seldom heard. It haunts principally the mountains and higher valleys; builds its nest in a hollow tree, or in the hollow of a large limb, and lays eggs elliptical in shape, white and granular. In this case they were three in number, and from the appearance of the ovules, were the full complement. They were newly laid, September 19."

I find this to be a very dark variety of *Strix flammea*. At my request, Mr. Ridgway sent me a specimen of the dark-plumaged form (var. *guatemalte*, from Costa Rica), spoken of in N. A. Birds, v. 2, p. 14. On comparison, the difference is very marked: the example from Costa Rica is above brown, intermixed with rufous, and closely freckled with fine whitish vermiculations; it is also marked, not closely, with whitish ovate spots surrounded with black; the color below is dark reddish-ochraceous, with black sagittate spots. The sex not given. It measures, length, $14\frac{1}{2}$ in.; wing, 13; tail, 6; tarsus, $2\frac{3}{4}$.

The male from Dominica has the upper plumage of a fine blackish-brown, rather sparsely marked with small white spots; the tail is crossed with alternate bands of brown and light dull ochraceous freckled with brown; the wings are the color of the back, somewhat intermixed with rufous; the under plumage is light reddish-ochraceous, marked with small round black spots (the color is lighter than the under plumage of the Costa Rica specimen); the ends of the ruff-feathers are dark reddish-brown; feathers around the eye, black; the face is of a light reddish-fawn color. "Bill white; iris deep chocolate, half an inch in diameter."

Length (fresh), 13 in.; wing, 10; tail, $4\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus, 2.

The female is of the same dark color above, with the white spots so minute as to be scarcely perceptible; the tail is darker; the under plumage of a darker reddish-ochraceous than in the male (not so dark

as that of the Costa Rica specimen), a few roundish black spots on the breast; on the abdomen the markings are in clusters, and irregular in form.

Length (skin), 13 in.; wing, $9\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $4\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus, $2\frac{1}{8}$.

Besides its much darker upper plumage, the Dominican form is of much smaller dimensions.

The color of the eggs is dead white; they measure in length 1.60 by 1.22 in breadth.

Fam. FALCONIDÆ.

35. *Pandion haliaetus* (Linn.).

"Fish-hawk."

"Seen circling over the sea in September."

36. *Buteo pennsylvanicus* (Wils.).

"'Mal fini.' St. Marie, Indian country.

"This bird courses above the valley, uttering its cry of 'Mal fini, fini'. It is not abundant; eats lizards as well as small birds. The largest of the Hawks here resident. Iris amber.

"Length, ♂, 15 in.; alar extent, 32; wing, $10\frac{1}{2}$.

"Length, ♀, 15 in.; alar extent, 32; wing, 10."

37. *Tinnunculus sparverius* var. *antillarum* (Gm.).

"'Glee glee.' Nowhere abundant.

"Length, ♂, $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 20; wing, $6\frac{3}{4}$."

The two specimens sent were submitted to Mr. Ridgway for determination; he wrote me as follows:—"The *Dominica Tinnunculus* is identical with that from St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew, and Porto Rico. It is what I have called '*sparverius* var. *dominicensis*', but I find upon further investigation that it should bear the name of *antillarum*, Gm.—*dominicensis* being, as I now conclude, the bird which I have called *leucophrys*." Mr. Ridgway also wrote:—"You may mention that I have a male *T. sparveroides*, in the plumbeous plumage, from South Florida."

Fam. FREGATIDÆ.

38. *Fregata aquila* (Linn.).

"Man o' War Hawk; Frigate Pelican."

"Often seen flying at great height; said to breed on an inaccessible cliff on the southeastern side of the island."

Fam. PHÆTHONIDÆ.

39. *Phæthon flavirostris*, Brandt.

"Tropic Bird. Abundant.

"Breeds in the cliffs near the Lime Plantation of Batalie, the property of Dr. Imray. They also breed in the cliffs of Mount David, near

Roseau. They appear from out their holes early in the morning, go out to sea to fish and return at 9 or 10; coming out again in the afternoon. A road winds at the base of the cliff, and thus they can be closely observed. They are said to reside here the year through, and commence incubating in April.

"Length, ♂, 23 in.; alar extent, 36; wing, 11½."

"Length, ♀, 27 in.; alar extent, 36; wing, 11½."

Fam. PELECANIDÆ.

40. *Pelecanus fuscus* (Linn.).

"Brown Pelican."

"One or two seen; does not breed here, but probably on the nearest sandy island."

Fam. ARDEIDÆ.

41. *Ardea candidissima* (Gm.).

"'Gaulin blanc.' Not common.

"In such rivers as that at Hatton Garden, which runs a long distance through a tolerably level valley, with broad shallows, banks well lined with bushes, with deep holes well stocked with fish, this bird is often found. Iris pale yellow.

"Length, ♂, 21½ in.; alar extent, 35; wing, 10½ in."

42. *Ardea cærulea*, Linn.

"'Crabier noir.'"

"Shot in a stream far up the mountains. Iris straw-color.

"Length, ♀, 21½ in.; alar extent, 37; wing, 10½."

43. *Butorides virescens* (Linn.).

"Green Heron. Common.

"Breeding season commenced in April; found eggs in June. Iris yellow.

"Length, ♀, 19½ in.; alar extent, 26; wing, 7¼."

Fam. COLUMBIDÆ.

44. *Columba corensis*, Gm.

"'Ramier.'"

"Abundant in the high woods, never touches earth; makes its nest in the high gomier trees in May. Shot in numbers in the rainy season, then very fat and most delicious eating. Iris orange, shot with gold, with an inner circle around of darker color.

"Length, ♂, 16 in.; alar extent, 28; wing, 9."

45. *Zenaida martinicana*, Bp.

"'Tourterelle.'"

"Breeds on rocks and cliffs along the coast (Caribbean), very plenti-

ful. In the mountains not numerous; abundant in Indian country, coming about the huts even, not being troubled there. Found eggs in June at Batalie.

"Length, ♂, $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, 19; wing, 7."

46. *Chamæpelina passerina* (Linn.).

"Ground Dove. 'Bagas?'"

"Not numerous on the hills; on Grand Savannah, near Batalie, Caribbean coast, abundant. Found eggs in June; the nest, a frail platform of grass stalks and sticks, placed on an old stump.

"Length, ♀, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $10\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{2}$."

47. *Geotrygon montana* (Linn.).

"'Perdix rouge', ♂; 'Perdix noir', ♀.

"Not uncommon in the high woods; called Perdix or Partridge; robust; strong in short flight, and frequenting the ground; it more resembles that bird than a Dove. Iris yellow.

"Length, ♂, $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $19\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $6\frac{1}{2}$.

"Length, ♀, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 18; wing, 6."

The two eggs sent are of a rather light salmon color, and immaculate; they measure 1.19 by .89.

Fam. CHARADRIIDÆ.

48. *Charadrius virginicus*, Borkh.

"Golden Plover."

"Arrives in flocks, frequenting the 'Grand Savannah', staying but a short time."

49. *Streptopelia interpres* (Linn.).

"Only one seen, at Scott's Head. The flocks of migratory Plover and Curlews visit Dominica but little, preferring lower islands, like Antigua and Barbuda to the rocky islands, where their favorite food is necessarily scarce.

"Length, 9 in.; alar extent, $18\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 6."

Fam. SCOLOPACIDÆ.

50. "Sandpiper."

Species undetermined; seen, but not obtained.

51. *Tringoides macularius* (Linn.).

"A resident species. In the hurricane months, the island is visited by numberless flocks of Plover. No other Sandpiper or Plover (I think) resides here.

"Length, ♀, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $12\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$."

Fam. LARIDÆ.

52. "Tern."

"Not procured, but I think is *Sterna stolidæ*."53. *Sterna antillarum* (Less.).

"Tern."

"Very few seen; principally about Scott's Head, the southernmost point of the island.

"Length, ♂, 8½ in.; alar extent, 18½; wing, 6½."

54. *Sterna fuliginosa* (Gm.).

"Twa oo."

"When I reached Dominica, September 15, large flocks of this species were skimming the water, apparently feeding upon the fish. There were hundreds. Wishing to get into the mountains at once, I neglected to get this bird, thinking it would be on the coast upon my return. In a week, however, the squally weather which had brought them in had passed, and they also had disappeared. I was able only to procure this mutilated specimen, which I send with regret."

55. *Sterna anæsthera*, Scop.

"Tern."

"St. Marie, Atlantic coast, April 20. This bird made its first appearance a week ago, coming from the open ocean, to breed upon a rock off this stormy shore. My Indian boys procured twenty eggs from the rock. The birds leave the island so soon as their young are fledged.

"Length, ♂, 14½ in.; alar extent, 29; wing, 10½."

"Length, ♀, 15½ in.; alar extent, 30; wing, 10¾."

Fam. PROCELLARIDÆ.

56. "Diablotin."

"Twenty years ago it was abundant. Said to have come in from the sea in October and November, and to burrow in the tops of the highest mountains for a nest. In those months it incubated. The wildest stories are told about it, and but for the evidence of such a man as Dr. Inray, I should treat it as a myth. Doubtless as you write, it may be identical with the Jamaica Petrel."

On first receiving the account of this bird from Mr. Ober, I wrote to Professor Baird, suggesting that it might be *Puffinus obscurus*, which species was found breeding in the Bahamas by Dr. Bryant. Professor Baird replied that he thought it was more likely to be *Prion Caribbaea*, discovered in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica a few years since.

It is quite possible it may be an undescribed species, and its acquisition is most desirable.

It goes and comes, doubtless, mostly if not altogether at night. If the burrows made by it could be found when the birds are incubating, probably they could be unearthed in the daytime, and thus be secured.

Its movements being like those attributed to evil spirits, probably suggested the name by which it is known.

Dr. Bryant (Proc. Boston Soc. of N. H. v. 7, p. 132) gives the following account of *Puffinus obscurus*:—"The nest is always placed in a hole or under a projecting portion of the rock, seldom more than a foot from the surface, and never, as far as my experience goes, out of reach of the hand. On being caught they make no noise, and do not resist at all. Why these birds and the Stormy Petrels never enter or leave their holes in the daytime, is one of the mysteries of nature; both of them feeding and flying all day, yet never seen in the vicinity of their breeding places before dark."

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF FISHES FROM CLACKAMAS RIVER, OREGON.

By DAVID S. JORDAN, M. D.

The United States National Museum has lately received from Mr. Livingston Stone a small collection of fishes obtained by him from the Clackamas River, a tributary of the Columbia in Oregon. The collection comprises only six species, but each species (excepting *Salmo tsuppitch*) is represented by several specimens, all in excellent condition; and it so happens that each one of these is a species of special scientific interest, and one concerning which our knowledge has for one reason or another been incomplete. Four of these species were first described by Richardson (Fauna Boreali-Americana, 1836), viz, *Oncorhynchus quinnat*, *Salmo tsuppitch*, *Salmo clarki*, and *Gila oregonensis*; another, *Acrochilus alutaceus*, was first made known by Professor Agassiz (Am. Journ. Sci. and Arts, 1855); and the last, *Salvelinus spectabilis*, by Dr. Girard in 1856.

I. ONCORHYNCHUS QUINNAT (Richardson) Günther.

California Salmon. Columbia Salmon. Quinnat Salmon.

- 1836—*Salmo quinnat* RICHARDSON, Fauna Bor.-Am. iii, p. 219, (described from notes by Dr. Gairdner).
Salmo quinnat DEKAY, Fauna New York, Fishes, p. 242, 1842, (copied).
Salmo quinnat STORER, Synopsis Fish. N. A. p. 196, 1846, (copied).
Salmo quinnat HERBERT, Frank Forrester's Fish and Fishing, Supplement, p. 31, 1850.
Salmo quinnat GIRARD, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phila. viii, p. 217, 1856.
Salmo quinnat GIRARD, Pac. R. R. Rep. Fishes, p. 306, pl. 67, 1858.
Salmo quinnat SUCKLEY, Nat. Hist. Wash. Terr. p. 321, 1860.
Oncorhynchus quinnat GÜNTHER, Cat. Fishes Brit. Mus. vi, p. 158, 1866, (compiled).
Salmo quinnat SUCKLEY, Monograph Genus Salmo, Rept. U. S. Fish. Comm. p. 105, 1874.
Salmo quinnat NELSON, Bull. Ills. Mus. Nat. Hist. i, p. 43, 1876, (Illinois River).
Salmo quinnat HALLOCK, Sportsman's Gazetteer, p. 359, 1877.
Oncorhynchus quinnat JORDAN, Man. Vert. ed. 2d, p. 357, 1878.
Oncorhynchus quinnat JORDAN, Catalogue Fresh-water Fishes N. A. p. 431, 1878.
Salmo quinnat, U. S. Fish Comm. Repts., and of writers on Salmon and fish culture generally.