

CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF ST. VINCENT, FROM COLLECTIONS MADE BY MR. FRED. A. OBER, UNDER THE DIRECTIONS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WITH HIS NOTES THEREON.

By **GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.**

Before Mr. Ober's final visit to Dominica, he made collections in Antigua and Barbuda. These were left with the United States consul at Antigua, to be forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution when there was an opportunity to do so. This was in September, 1877; but they have not yet been received.

After completing his investigations in Dominica, he went to St. Vincent, whence he writes under date of October 9:—"As soon as I reached the mountains I was taken sick. It has been quite discouraging. I have suffered from another attack of fever. I feel pretty well now, and hope to keep so." He wrote under date of December 10:—"I expect to leave for Grenada January 15." But unfortunately he had a relapse of fever, by which he was completely prostrated, as, in a letter dated January 25, he says:—"I am just convalescing from a long fever; camping in this very wet weather brought it on. I have been laid up since December 19. I lost all my flesh, and was so weak when I first left my bed that I could scarcely stand. Though I have been here a long while, I have accomplished little, owing to the rains and the actual impossibility of working the woods then, without a pull-up such as I am getting. I hope to be all right in a week, and, as drier weather is at hand, to rapidly finish this island, and then push through the Grenadines to Grenada. From there, retrace my steps here for mails, &c., and then go to Martinique."

Mr. Ober's long sickness, together with the rains, prevented him from making but a moderate collection at St. Vincent. He was to leave for Grenada on the 29th of February.

The collection from St. Vincent was kindly taken in charge by Rear-Admiral Trenchard, commanding the United States steamer Powhatan, early in March. It was received at the Smithsonian on the 25th of that month, and forwarded to me a few days thereafter. It consists of but ninety specimens, and some of the species are poorly represented in numbers.

The subjoined account from Mr. Ober, of the geographical position of the island, with its natural and zoological peculiarities, seems to convey valuable information. This, with his observations on the habits of birds, &c., are indicated by quotation-marks:—

"St. Vincent, February 28, 1878. This island lies in latitude $13^{\circ} 15'$ north and longitude $61^{\circ} 10'$ west. It is about 100 miles due west of Barbadoes, and is one of the long chain of volcanic islands extending from latitude $17^{\circ} 50'$ north to latitude 12° north.

"Like Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, and Grenada, it is very mountainous; nearly the whole surface is tossed with hills, and even the level land, as it is called, is of this character.

“Like the other islands of the chain, it has a longitudinal axis in the shape of a range of hills extending its entire length. Here and there are peaks approaching the dignity of mountains, the highest about 3,000 feet. In the northern part is the famous ‘Souffriere’, a mountain with a crater a mile in diameter, a slumbering volcano which, in 1812, by a tremendous eruption, spread havoc and ruin all around it. Before this eruption, the mountain was probably much higher than at present, as the top was blown completely off and a new crater opened. Evidence of its work may be seen at the present day in the deep gullies scooped out of the mountain side and the plain beneath by the lava flow in its great rush to the sea. I counted five of these dry rivers in sailing along the leeward coast. The most extensive is on the windward coast, at least 300 yards in width.

“St. Vincent has more cultivable land than Dominica, owing to the windward side sloping gradually from the foot hills to the sea, a tract from one to two miles in width of undulating surface, though rough and elevated in places.

“As will be seen, the avifauna resembles much that of Dominica—some birds of the same species in greater or less abundance, a few replaced by others of near affinity, and one or two new forms.

“The Island Parrot *Chrysotis guildingi* is peculiar to this island, but I doubt if there are other birds whose habitat is restricted to this small range. Were I possessed of all the information I hope to get by the time my investigations are completed, I might speak of the peculiarity of these insular faunæ, by which I find, in islands separated by a narrow breadth of water—say, from 15 to 30 miles—birds found in one that never visit the other. Notable examples could be given, but I wish to speak authoritatively and from more extended experience.

“It is strange that in an island more than two degrees south of Dominica, I find so little difference in the plumage of birds; hardly any increase of those tropical species of bright plumage, which are so abundant further south in Tobago and Trinidad. In fact, so far as the fauna of each island is concerned, and in external character of surface and soil, and even in the component elements of the latter, Dominica and St. Vincent could scarcely be more alike. To a superficial observer these facts are apparent, as well as to one who studies them.

“In numbers, as well as in species, this island is greatly deficient. To what cause to attribute this disparity when the forests and fields teem with bird-food, and islands further south teem with birds, I am at a loss. Perhaps the reason may appear later, in the process of careful investigation.

“The most striking instance of the absence of any particular form or family, is that of the Picidæ. Countless trees, decaying and dead, under the influence of a never-ceasing destructive power, which would afford food for thousands of birds; which are infested and alive with ants, borers, &c., found in every forest. Not a woodpecker; millions of nut-

and seed-producing trees, and you may look in vain for any member of the squirrel family.

"And among birds and among quadrupeds, there is no animal here that takes their places.

"These few notes, hasty and crude, may aid in the conception of the appearance of animal life here, and only for that purpose are they offered.

"I send, by the same conveyance with the birds, 46 specimens of Carib hatchets, axes, knives, &c., illustrating the crude state of advancement in which they existed, as compared with their enemies and co-existent tribes of the larger islands.

"Allow me in this connection to acknowledge the courtesy of the officials and planters of St. Vincent. To His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., C. M. G. Lieut. Governor of St. Vincent; Edward Laborde, Colonial Secretary; and to Hon. Henry Shaw, Treasurer of the island, I am especially indebted for facilities in prosecuting my work, as well as for social pleasures that have greatly relieved the tedium of life in a new place.

"To the proprietors and managers of the different estates, I am greatly indebted; to James Milne, Esq., of Rutland Vale, for a residence in the country when recovering from fever; to Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., Kingstown, for letters of introduction, horses, and men. Finally, it is only incumbent upon me to add that I have received nothing but kind treatment, and have found most unbounded hospitality throughout the island.

"FREDERICK A. OBER."

Fam. TURDIDÆ.

1. *Turdus nigrirostris*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., vol. 1, p. 147.

"Thrush, ♀. Length, $9\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 14; wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$.

"Found on lower ground than *Margarops montanus*. Not numerous."

2. *Margarops herminieri* (Lafr.).

"Have heard the unmistakable whistle of this bird, and have seen it as it flitted by in the dusk of the high woods, but have not obtained it."

3. *Margarops montanus* (Vieill.).

"Found only in high woods and valleys. Not very abundant. I have not seen the larger species of this genus."

4. *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*, Gould.

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

"Not so abundant as in the woods of Dominica, but still plentiful. Iris yellow."

5. *Mimus gilvus*, Vieill.

"'Mocking bird.'"

"Male, length, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 14; wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$.

"Female, length, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, $12\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $4\frac{1}{8}$.

"Pretty common in the lowlands and cleared places. In shape and habits it resembles the Mockingbird of the States. Its habit of dodging in and out of the palm tops, recalls the American species. It is vastly inferior in song however, but trills very sweetly a few notes."

There are five specimens in the collection, differing in no respect from an undoubted example of this species from Guiana.

Fam. SYLVIIDÆ.

6. *Myiadestes sibilans*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 148.

"'Souffriere Bird.'

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

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

"This bird has been an object of search for fifty years, and has so long eluded the vigilance of naturalists and visitors to the mountains, that it is called the 'invisible bird'. From being seen only on the Souffriere Mountain, it has acquired the name of the 'Souffriere bird'. It is popularly believed to be found only on the Sulphur Mountain, but is an inhabitant of all the high ridges containing deep woods and ravines. Shy and exceedingly observant, it was not until my third search for it that I captured it. Though I fear the popular belief that it is a resident of this island only is erroneous, still I was piqued at the reputation it held of being invisible, and resolved to capture it. To do this I camped five days and nights on the mountain top, 3,000 feet above the sea, in a cave on the brink of the crater. I got five birds by using all my arts of allurement, calling them within shot by using a call taught me by the Caribs.

"The bird is mentioned in Gosse's Birds of Jamaica, and considered identical with the 'Mountain Whistler' (*Myiadestes genibarbis*) of Dominica and Jamaica. This was merely conjecture, and should it prove nothing else, I can claim the credit of settling the doubt.

"There are differences in the notes of the two birds, though great similarity in their habits. I send you seven specimens."

Mr. Ober quotes Mr. Gosse as considering the St. Vincent bird to be identical with the one inhabiting Jamaica. But Mr. Gosse does not precisely say that, but says concerning it (Birds of Jamaica, p. 200) that he received the following note from Mr. Hill:—"I find among some detached notes of mine the following memorandum respecting a similar bird in the smaller West India islands. 'The precipitous sides of the Souffriere Mountain in St. Vincent,' says a writer describing the volcano which so disastrously broke out there in 1812, 'were fringed with various evergreens, and aromatic shrubs, flowers, and many Alpine plants. On the north and south sides of the base of the cone were two pieces of water, one perfectly pure and tasteless, the other strongly impregnated with sulphur and alum. This lonely and beautiful spot was

rendered more enchanting by the singularly melodious notes of a bird, an inhabitant of those upper solitudes, and altogether unknown to the other parts of the island; hence supposed to be invisible, though it certainly has been seen, and is a species of Merle.’”

Neither does Mr. Gosse allude to its being similar to the bird found in Dominica. Mr. Ober was misled probably by Mr. Gosse using *M. genibarbis* (which is the correct name for the Dominica species) as a synonym of *M. armillatus*, which he supposed the Jamaica Solitaire to be, but which has been given a distinct name by Professor Baird, viz, *Myiadestes solitarius*.

Fam. TROGLODYTIDÆ.

7. *Thryothorus musicus*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 149.

“Wren; ‘Wall Bird.’

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

“The sweet warble of this lively little bird may be heard morning, noon, and night about the houses and sugar-mills, as well as far up the mountain sides and valleys. It is quite plentiful and often has deceived me in its note, as it was mistaken for that of a warbler. It builds its nest in the walls of houses and holes in trees. Saw one constructing a nest in October. Found on the Souffriere, 3,000 feet above the sea.”

Fam. SYLVICOLIDÆ.

8. *Leucopeza bishopi*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 151.

“Wren?”

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

“While engaged in my search for the Souffriere bird, I noticed a sprightly little bird that came skipping through the trees at my call. It seemed rather shy, but this may be owing to the presence of man in such a secluded situation, and it was with difficulty I shot two. Since then I have shot another; none of them below 1,000 feet altitude. Its note is very sharp; either the male or the female gives utterance to the syllable, ‘few, few, few,’ etc., eight or ten times, immediately answered by the mate with, ‘whit, whit, whit,’ etc., the same number of times.”

9. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.).

“Not often seen.”

Fam. VIREONIDÆ.

10. *Vireosylva calidris* var. *dominicana*, Lawr.

“*Vireo calidris*? Everywhere abundant.

“Length, ♂, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 9; wing, 3.

“Length, ♀, 6 in.; alar extent, $9\frac{1}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$.”

Fam. HIRUNDINIDÆ.

11. *Progne dominicensis* (Gm.).

"Length, ♂, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; alar extent, $15\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $5\frac{3}{4}$.

"I saw the first this month, February, at the same time with, and in the same place as, the Tropic bird (*Phæthon*). I think, however, both are residents."

Fam. CÆREBIDÆ.

12. *Certhiola atrata*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 150.

"*Certhiola* ?

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

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

"This black species seems to have almost entirely replaced the black and yellow one of Dominica, etc. It is abundant mixing with the 'black bird' (*Loxigilla noctis*) in the cotton-trees and plantains, so as to be hardly distinguished. The love for the flowers of the banana and plantain, and the fruit as well, is the same trait possessed by the Dominica species."

13. *Certhiola saccharina*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 151.

"*Certhiola*.

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

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

"Not so abundant as the preceding. Called the 'Molasses bird?'"

Fam. TANAGRIDÆ.

14. *Euphonia flavifrons* (Sparm.).

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

"Only observed in the high valleys, and only one seen. A quiet, unsuspecting bird; feeds on a berry known here as the misseltoe, and hence called the 'misseltoe bird?'"

15. *Calliste versicolor*, Lawr., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. vol. 1, p. 153.

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

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

"At 'Carabries', the highest place of residence in the island, I first found this bird, feeding on the gommier seeds and others; frequently flying into the high woods, but remaining principally in the more open tracts bordering the negro provision grounds. In the heat of the day, and when it was windy, they kept more in the low shrubbery, feeding on the seeds of a low bush."

Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ.

16. *Loxigilla noctis* (Linn.).

“ ‘Black-bird.’

“ Length, ♂, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.; alar extent, 9; wing, 3.

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

“ The young at first are like the females—gray. Its favorite tree is the silk cotton; it is very plentifully distributed.”

There is but one pair of this species in the collection; they are of rather smaller dimensions than examples from Dominica. The bill is also somewhat smaller, but yet very much larger than that of the bird from Guiana, which I called var. *propinqua* in the Dominica catalogue; the last is of a much smaller size.

17. *Phonipara bicolor* (Linn.).

“ ‘Ground Sparrow.’

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

“ The most numerous of any species; everywhere it is found, except, perhaps, in the depths of the ‘high woods’. It breeds in nearly every month from February to October; its nest is dome-shaped, like nearly all those of small birds in these islands. I procured many nests and eggs in Dominica.”

Fam. ICTERIDÆ.

18. *Quiscalus* ?

“ A bird called the ‘Bequia Sweet’, from its note; a black bird, much resembling the Crow Blackbird, though smaller, the female the color of the female Cowbird; is plentiful in the adjacent keys, and a few have been blown here by storms.”

Fam. TYRANNIDÆ.

19. *Elainea martinica* (Linn.).

“ Flycatcher.

“ Length, ♂, $6\frac{7}{8}$ in.; alar extent, 11; wing, $3\frac{1}{2}$.

“ The most common of these birds; much frequents the silk-cotton tree and the low bushes on hill sides.”

20. *Myiarchus oberi*, Lawr.

“ Flycatcher; ‘Piperee.’

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

“ A companion of the preceding species, and found in the same localities.”

21. *Tyrannus rostratus*, ScL.

“ Piperee.

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

“ Common in town and country.”

Fam. TROCHILIDÆ.

22. *Eulampis jugularis* (Linn.).

"Few are seen below the high valleys, and there, even, it is by no means common."

23. *Eulampis holosericeus* (Linn.).

"Exceedingly scarce, and like the above species found more frequently in the highlands than in the lowlands."

24. *Orthorhynchus ornatus*, Gould?

"'Doctor bird.' *O. exilis*?"

"The only species which is numerous, especially in the gardens. The most interesting Hummingbird's nest I have yet seen is one of this bird's, being attached to a hanging rope, and containing two eggs; found in October."

Mr. Ober sent but one pair of this species, which he queries if not *O. exilis*. The male agrees closely with *O. ornatus*, Gould, as described and figured by him (Mon. of Trochilidæ), having the ends of the crest-feathers decidedly blue.

Mr. Elliot (Ibis, 1872, p. 355) remarks as follows:—"This species, if it is really entitled to such a distinction, is found exactly between *O. cristatus* of Barbadoes and St. Vincent, and *O. exilis* of the Virgin Islands and Nevis. It has perhaps a little more blue upon the crest; but if the locality is wanting, it is not an easy matter to separate specimens from *O. exilis*, to which the present bird bears a close resemblance."

Mr. Elliot gives as its localities "Martinique and St. Lucia", and names "St. Vincent and Barbadoes" as the homes of *O. cristatus*. I have *O. cristatus* from Barbadoes, but the bird now sent from St. Vincent agrees well with *O. ornatus*, and Mr. Ober states that it is the only species of *Orthorhynchus* found there, and is abundant. I have not seen specimens of this genus from either Martinique or St. Lucia. I have examined examples of *O. exilis* from several islands, and they have been remarkably uniform in appearance, the ends of the crest-feathers being bluish-green, while in *O. ornatus* the termination of the crest is of a clear blue; in each the color of the tip gradually merges into the golden-green of the other portion of the crest. In *O. cristatus*, the two colors of the crest, violet-blue and golden-green, are about equally and trenchantly divided.

Fam. CYPSELIDÆ.

25. "Chætura?"

"Skims the country everywhere; is different from the Dominica species. Nests have been found in chimneys in the country districts."

Fam. ALCEDINIDÆ.

26. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.).

“Not abundant. The same habits as the Northern Kingfisher; must be a resident. Have seen it in Dominica in April and September; here from October to February.”

Fam. CUCULIDÆ.

27. *Coccyzus minor* (Gm.).

“‘Cuckoo, Manioc.’

“Wherever there is a field with low bushes, or dense clumps of mangoes with open spaces intervening, on hillsides as well as plains, this bird may be found. Its peculiar cry is said to be heard always before a rain, giving it the name of ‘Rain Bird’—a name, however, not confined to this species, as local names are given without any reason, except the fancy of the people bestowing it.”

28. *Crotophaga ani*, Linn.

“‘Tick Bird.’ ‘Chapman Bird.’

“Introduced, but assimilates well. A lazy, unsuspecting bird, frequenting cattle-fields, and delighting to congregate in bunches of half a dozen or so in the tops of small trees. Is said to eat the cattle ticks, and for this purpose was introduced. Is always in a state of emaciation, but the stomach is generally well filled with ticks and small Coleoptera.”

Fam. PSITTACIDÆ.

29. *Chrysotis guildingi* (Vigors).

“Length (fresh), ♂, 18½ inches; alar extent, 32½; wing, 10½; tail, 7¾.

“Length (fresh), ♀, 19 inches; alar extent, 33; wing, 11.

“Is confined to the great central ridge running through the island; on this, and on the thickly wooded spurs this parrot is found. Like the Ramier, it feeds in the tops of the highest trees, and its season of good condition is the later months in the year. Mates in February, March, and breeds in April and May. Is then most easily approached, though ever shy and vigilant. Is sometimes caught (but only by breaking a wing by a shot) and takes kindly to confinement. The governor of St. Vincent, G. Dundas, Esq., C. M. G., has two which can articulate a few words. As a rule, however, they are difficult to teach. This is the only species on the island.”

I have appended a description of this rare and beautiful species.

Male.—The sinciput is of an ashy-white; the feathers of the top of the head have their bases pale orange, which color increases until on the occiput the feathers are entirely of a fine orange; lores and around the eye grayish-white; cheeks pale orange; the feathers of the sides of the neck and throat are orange at base, terminating with pale blue; the feathers

of the hind neck are light olive-green, orange at base, and terminating conspicuously with black; back, rump, and smaller wing-coverts of a brownish-rufous or bay color, the feathers narrowly edged with black; the tail-feathers are varied with dark green and blue, with their bases bright orange and their ends dirty pale orange; the terminal half of the primaries is black, the basal portion orange-yellow; the speculum on the secondaries is of a deep orange, succeeded by green and then dark blue on the outer webs to their ends; the inner webs are black; the tertials are olive-green, with the outer webs of a lighter blue; edge of the wing orange; the breast and sides are of a duller bay color than the back, and the abdomen dull olive-green; all the feathers edged with black; the under tail-coverts are dull orange, ending with green; the bill is horn-white, the end of the upper mandible dusky, and the sides with just a tinge of orange; feet dark ash.

The female does not differ essentially in plumage from the male, except that the sinciput is whiter and the throat of a clearer orange, possibly due to difference of age.

Each specimen is labelled—"Parrot. J. Kirkland, Esq., Langby Park, Dec. 15, 1877."

Fam. STRIGIDÆ.

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

"Owl. 'Jumbie Bird.'

"Length, ♀, 12 in.; alar extent, 32; wing, 10.

"There are two species, it is said; but I have seen but this one, and doubt whether there be another. Evidence from the natives should never be accepted without proof. This species is a frequenter of cliffs. I know nothing of its habits."

Fam. FALCONIDÆ.

31. *Pandion haliaetus* (Linn.).

"Not seen, but said to appear along the coast to the windward."

32. *Buteo pennsylvanicus* (Wils.).

"Everywhere abundant. Called the 'Chicken Hawk'. Every specimen yet examined very light in color, except the last."

33. *Urubitinga anthracina* (Nitzsch) ?

"Black Hawk."

"Length, ♂, juv., 21 in.; wing, 15; tail, 9; tarsus, 3½. Cumberland Valley, Feb. 1, 1878.

"An inhabitant of the mountains and higher valleys, feeding on crabs, cray-fishes, etc., and frequenting the mountain streams. This specimen is evidently not in mature stage of plumage. They are very shy, little seen, not molesting poultry. A young one of this species has been sent to the London Zoological Gardens.

“One pointed out to me as the Black Hawk had the shape and appearance of the Black Vulture (*Cathartes atratus*); the short tail and peculiar flight. This not according with my observations of the hawk previously, in the forest, leads me to think that it was *C. atratus*. If so, it is the first seen. A ‘Black Hawk’ I had before seen had all the appearance of the American Duck Hawk. They breed on a shelf of some high cliff.”

The single specimen sent is immature, but it does not agree satisfactorily with a Mexican example of *U. anthracina*, in a somewhat similar stage of plumage, and if *U. gundlachi* inhabiting Cuba is a distinct species, a comparison with that will be necessary to determine its true position.

It is (though a male) rather larger, and apparently stouter, with a shorter wing than the specimen from Mexico, which is a female; it is blacker, with the bands on the tail less in number and double the width of those on the tail of the Mexican bird; but there is probably a difference of age, and, without precise knowledge on this point, a comparison is unsatisfactory.

The specimen alluded to by Mr. Ober as having been sent to the Zoological Society of London is doubtless the one spoken of by Mr. J. H. Gurney (*Ibis*, 1876, p. 487); he says:—“I may also mention that a specimen of *U. anthracina* from the island of St. Vincent is now living in the Gardens of the Zoological Society; this example was in immature dress when it arrived at the Gardens, but is now in full plumage, with the exception of a slight tinge of rufous brown on the back and sides of the head, and also on the tertials,” etc.

On page 488 he also remarks:—“The *Urubitinga* found in Cuba was erected into a distinct species by Cabanis, who assigned to it the specific name of *gundlachi* (*vide Journ. für Orn.* 1854, p. 80); this, however, is treated by Mr. Sharpe as a synonym of *U. anthracina*, whether correctly or not I cannot say, as I have never seen a *Urubitinga* from Cuba,” etc.

Fam. FREGATIDÆ.

34. *Fregata aquila* (Linn.).

“A common sight is that of the ‘Man-o’war Bird’ flying high above the water. It breeds in numbers on the island of Balliceaux, 15 miles distant from St. Vincent.”

Fam. PHÆTHONIDÆ.

35. *Phæthon æthereus*, Linn.

“Length, ♂, 37 in.; alar extent, 38: wing, 12½.

“Breeds in the cliffs on the Leeward coast; habits, etc., same as the Dominica bird. I found this species in great numbers, at Balliceaux, a small key near St. Vincent; found a young bird and one egg; they breed later in the season.”

Fam. PELECANIDÆ.

36. *Pelecanus fuscus* (Linn.).

"Length, ♂, 46 in.; alar extent, 80; wing, 20.

"Seen off the coast, but not in any abundance."

37. *Sula fiber* (Linn.)?

"An inhabitant of the Leeward coast."

Fam. ARDEIDÆ.

38. *Ardea herodias*, Linn.

"Visits the island, but not often seen; called the 'Gray Heron?'"

39. *Garzetta candidissima* (Gm.).

"Very few ever seen."

40. *Florida cærulea* (Linn.).

"In small numbers."

41. *Butorides virescens* (Linn.).

"Length, ♀, 17 in.; alar extent, 25; wing, 7.

"Common; the only Heron plentiful."

Fam. COLUMBIDÆ.

42. *Columbo corensis* (Gm.).

"Length, ♀, 16 in.; alar extent, 25½; wing, 8¾.

"Abundant, but shy; inhabits the high woods. Feeds on the berries of the gommier tree and many others. Is in best condition in November and December; but most easily obtained in February and March, when the woods resound with its call notes and loud cooing. Is strictly arboreal, never touching the earth."

43. *Zenaida martinicana*, Bp.

"Length, ♀, 10¼ in.; wing, 5¾; tail, 3½.

"'Turtle Dove.' Balliceaux Island, near St. Vincent. Breeding abundantly."

44. *Chamæpelia passerina* (Linn.).

"Length, ♂, 6¾ in.; alar extent, 10½; wing, 3½.

"Abundant, more so than in Dominica; especially will it be found in rocky situations near the shore."

45. *Geotrygon montana* (Linn.).

"Length, ♂, 10½ in.; alar extent, 18; wing, 6½.

"Length, ♀, 9½ in.; alar extent, 16½; wing, 5½.

"Rather plentiful in the high woods, where only it resides. Is as

strictly terrestrial as the Ramier is arboreal. Feeds on fallen seeds mostly; when alarmed, springs into a tree, or flies a short distance and alights in a low tree, whence it soon seeks the ground."

Fam. RALLIDÆ.

46. *Porphyrio martinicus* (Linn.).

"*Gallinula martinica*? Seen by me in October, but not obtained. One has since been shot in Dominica, and is awaiting my return there. It is undoubtedly the same species as this."

Fam. CHARADRIIDÆ.

47. *Squatarola helvetica* (Linn.).

"Autumn migrations."

48. *Charadrius virginicus*, Borkh.

"Visits the island in the months of September and October, but does not remain. There are few open fields, rounded hills, or lowlands, so that the Plover make but a very short stay."

49. *Ægialitis semipalmata* (Bp.).

50. *Streptopelia interpres* (Linn.).

"In October."

Fam. SCOLOPACIDÆ.

51. *Himantopus nigricollis* (Vieill.).

52. *Gallinago wilsoni* (Temm.).

"Only in winter months."

53. *Tringa minutilla*, Vieill.

54. *Calidris arenaria* (Linn.).

55. *Gambetta flavipes* (Gm.).

56. *Tringoides macularius* (Linn.).

"Length, ♂, 7 in.; alar extent, 12; wing, 4.

"A visitant; remains through the winter months. Some few may remain the whole year; not very plentiful."

57. *Numenius longirostris* (Wils.).

"Of the preceding, eight species are on the authority of a resident. There is no doubt that they occur. All are migrants, visiting only in autumn."

Fam. LARIDÆ.

58. *Sterna maxima*, Bodd.

“*Sterna regia*.

“I am very sure that the Tern seen here is of this species, though I have not yet obtained it.”

Fam. PODICIPITIDÆ.

59. “*Podiceps* ?

“A species of ‘diver’ is often spoken of as occurring during the autumn months. I have not obtained it.”

“A few ducks and one species of teal visit this island, but do not remain. There are few ponds or bodies of water, no salt-water lagoons and no marshes of any extent, so that all kinds of water fowl soon leave for better feeding grounds.”

NEW YORK, July 22, 1878.

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPAROID FISH, SARGUS HOLBROOKII,
FROM SAVANNAH BANK.**

By TARLETON H. BEAN.

A preliminary description of this species was published in Forest and Stream, June 13, 1878. Mr. G. Brown Goode, Assistant Curator of the United States National Museum, found it on the 29th of March, 1878, in the market of Charleston, S. C., where it is known as the “Bream”. Prof. D. S. Jordan has recently collected the species at Beaufort, N. C.

The description is drawn from the six specimens (United States National Museum Catalogue, Fishes, No. 20,979) sent by Mr. Goode from Charleston. These specimens range from 256 to 300 millimetres ($10\frac{1}{2}$ to $11\frac{3}{6}$ inches) in length to end of middle caudal rays. This measurement is the basis of comparison for all the rest.

The species is dedicated to John Edwards Holbrook, M. D., author of the “Ichthyology of South Carolina”, &c., &c.

Sargus Holbrookii, Bean, *sp. nov.*

Body ovate, resembling *Sargus vulgaris*, Geoffr., in shape, rather than *S. caudimacula*, Poey, compressed, a very slight protuberance above the upper anterior margin of the orbit, and a very marked one in the supra-occipital region. Height of body at ventrals, measured from origin of ventral to origin of spinous dorsal, is contained slightly less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of body, and usually equals the distance of the dorsal from the end of upper jaw. Least height of tail is about equal to length of middle caudal rays, slightly exceeds the length of upper jaw, and is contained from 10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ times in total length.