

"The Blackbird (*Quiscalus luminosus*) is very abundant. The Cuckoo manioc (*Coceyzus minor*) is also found here, as well as the *Certhiola* sp.?, the small Sparrow (*Phonipara bicolor*), the Mocking-bird (*Mimus gilvus*), the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), and the Chicken Hawk (*Buteo pennsylvanicus*). In one of the islands, Union, the Cockrico (*Ortalia ruficauda*) has been successfully introduced, and some attempts have been made with the American Quail (*Ortyx virginianus*). Some of the islands are in private hands, and have been stocked with deer and goats, which, having become thoroughly wild, afford excellent hunting.

"The sea birds frequent the small islands, and the outlying rocks of the larger, in myriads, where they breed.

"The Little Crested Humming-bird of Grenada and St. Vincent is also found in the Grenadines."

NEW YORK, December 10, 1878.

ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF THE SEA-CATFISH (*ARIOPSIS*
MILBERTI?).

By PROF. N. T. LUPTON.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
Nashville, Tenn., February 19, 1877.

Prof. SPENCER F. BAIRD:

About the middle of July, 1868, while on a visit to Mobile, Ala., I accompanied a party of friends on a fishing excursion to Fish River, a small stream on the eastern side of Mobile Bay, some 25 miles below the city. This river near its mouth widens out, forming Berwicks Bay, a sheet of water about three miles wide by four in length. This Berwicks Bay is a favorite fishing-ground, being the resort, especially after a storm in the Gulf, of immense schools of mullet. A great variety of other fish, such as the croaker, trout, redfish, &c., abound in this bay.

Captain Wemyss, who owned a large saw-mill on the bank of the river, and whose hospitality we were enjoying, kindly proposed to show us the different kinds of fish which frequent these waters, and to this end furnished a large seine and the necessary force to draw it.

While examining the fish my attention was called to several cat, each about 10 inches in length, which seemed to have a wonderful development of the throat. On examination, the enlargement was found to be caused by small catfish and eggs which were carried in the mouth. From the mouth of one I took out eleven small fish, each about an inch in length, and from another eight or nine eggs the size of a small marble, the eyes of the embryonic cat showing distinctly through the thin membrane enveloping the egg.

On inquiry made of several old fishermen in the neighborhood, and of a large number elsewhere, I have failed to find one who knew anything

whatever of this habit of the catfish. If the observation is new, and it deserves to be placed on record, you are at liberty to use this in any way you may deem proper.

Very respectfully,

N. T. LUPTON.

**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *STICHAUS PUNCTATUS*, (FABR.) KRÖYER,
AT ST. MICHAEL'S, ALASKA.**

By TABLETON H. BEAN.

A single specimen of the species above named was collected June 29, 1874, at St. Michael's, Alaska, by Mr. Lucien M. Turner, who sent it to the United States National Museum. The species is now apparently for the first time recorded from the coast of Northwestern North America. The total length of the specimen is 145 millimetres ($5\frac{11}{16}$ inches). It has been compared with an individual of the same species from Greenland (probably from the Danish Colonies, as it was presented to the Museum by the Danish Academy), and another from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where it was taken September 4, 1877, by the United States Fish Commission, at the mouth of the harbor, in 20 fathoms of water. In order to show at a glance how the St. Michael's specimen differs from the other two, the proportions of the different parts of the body of all the specimens to the total length without caudal are exhibited in tabular form. The average proportions of the three individuals are given in another table, and they may serve as a basis of a description of the species. From this average the specimen from St. Michael's differs in the following particulars:

1. The maxillary is longer.
2. The mandible is longer.
3. The pectoral is longer.
4. The ventral is inserted somewhat nearer the snout.

In the number of anal rays, the Alaska specimen is intermediate between the other two. The differences indicated fall within the limits of individual variation, and in the absence of sufficient material it is not practicable to separate the St. Michael's example from the other two, even as a variety.

Stichæus punctatus is recorded from the coast of Greenland (Danish Colonies?), Newfoundland, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. Michael's, Alaska.