

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ICTERUS FROM THE WEST INDIES.**By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.****Icterus oberi.**

Male: Head, neck, upper part of breast, back, wings, and tail black; lower part of breast, abdomen, under tail-coverts, and rump light-brownish chestnut, with the concealed bases of the feathers of a clear light yellow; the thighs are yellow, with a wash of chestnut; edge of wing and under wing-coverts yellow; bill black, with the sides of the under mandible bluish for half its length from the base; tarsi and toes black.

Length (skin), $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{3}{8}$; tail, 4; tarsus, $\frac{7}{8}$; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$.

The female has the upper plumage of a dull greenish olive, with a yellowish tinge, the front and rump inclining more to yellow; the tail feathers are yellowish green; quills brownish black; the primaries and secondaries are edged narrowly with dull yellowish gray; the tertiaries are margined with fulvous; wing-coverts dark brown, margined with fulvous; edge of wing yellow; the under plumage is of a rather dull dark yellow; the breast and under tail-coverts are of a deeper or warmer color; the sides are greenish olive; bill and legs as in the male.

The young male resembles the female in plumage, but has the back somewhat darker.

Types in National Museum, Washington.

It differs from all its allies, which are somewhat similarly colored, in having the shoulders black, instead of yellow or chestnut.

Seven specimens were obtained.

In the early part of March of the present year, Mr. Ober left for the West Indies, intending to explore as many of the islands not visited on his first expedition as his limited time would permit. He returned after an absence of six months, and his collections sent to the Smithsonian Institution were placed in my hands for examination. Among them I found but one new species, viz, the *Icterus* above described, procured in Montserrat.

It seems but a fitting compliment that the only new species commemorative of the second expedition of Mr. Ober should bear his name.

The catalogues of the birds obtained by him in the different islands will be published in the Proceedings of the National Museum as soon as he furnishes me with his notes and observations thereon.

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