

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF COOT FROM THE WEST INDIES.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Fulica caribæa, sp. nov.—Sp. CHAR. Similar to *F. americana*, but differing in the slenderer bill and in the form and color of the frontal shield. Frontal shield oval or elliptical, much wrinkled, .70 — .90 of an inch long, and .35 — .50 wide, in the breeding season; its color pale brownish (whitish in life?) instead of chestnut or liver-brown, as in *F. americana*.

Hab.—Islands of Guadeloupe and Saint John's, Lesser Antilles.

A male and female from Saint John's (F. A. Ober, coll.) and an adult from Guadeloupe (L. Guesde, coll.) agree in the above characters which, on comparison with an extensive series of *F. americana*, appear sufficient to justify their separation as a resident local species or race. The plumage is quite identical with that of *F. americana*, and the bill is marked with the same well-defined subterminal brown spots; but there is no trace whatever of the dark color on the frontal shield, always present and conspicuous in *F. americana*.

The Museum possesses a specimen of *F. americana*, in breeding dress, from Grenada.

A REVIEW OF THE AMERICAN SPECIES OF EPINEPHELUS AND RELATED GENERA.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and JOSEPH SWAIN.

In the present paper we give the synonymy of the species of *Epinephelus* and allied genera known from American waters, an analytical key by which the species recognized by us may be distinguished, and full descriptions of most of the species which we have been able to examine. These specimens belong in part to the United States National Museum and in part to the Museum of the University of Indiana.

The group here discussed corresponds very nearly to the genus *Epinephelus* in the sense in which it is understood in the later papers of Bleeker. The *Epinephelini* include, as understood by us, those *Serranina* which have the maxillary provided with a supplemental bone, the teeth of the inner series in both jaws depressible, the front of each jaw with two fixed canines which are sometimes obsolete, the dorsal fin continuous, the soft dorsal with 15 to 19 rays, and the bones of the cranium without prominent spinous ridges. This definition excludes the nearly related genera *Stereolepis* and *Polyprion* as well as the more remote *Serranus*, *Anthias*, *Paranthias*, &c. As further distinguishing the *Epinepheli* from *Serranus* and *Anthias* we have the small scales and the number of the dorsal spines, which in *Serranus* is always ten, and