

**A CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF GRENADA, WEST INDIES, WITH
OBSERVATIONS THEREON.**

By JOHN GRANT WELLS, of Grenada.

[EDITED BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.]

For the past three years Mr. Wells has been sending me specimens of birds from Grenada, through the Smithsonian Institution, to have them identified. His object in so doing was that he might give as complete a catalogue as possible of the birds inhabiting and frequenting that island. He has enumerated ninety-two species, two of which require identification for want of specimens.

Mr. Wells enumerates thirty-eight species more than are given by Mr. Ober in his catalogue of the birds of Grenada. He procured all the species obtained or seen by Mr. Ober, and four he had not identified have been determined.

Of most of the species he has given very full and interesting notes of their habits.

Mr. Wells has proved himself to be a most diligent collector and careful investigator, the result being, besides the greatly increased number of birds added to the fauna of Grenada, the discovery of three species new to science and of eleven species not before noted from the Lesser Antilles.

Most of the species given in this catalogue have been liberally presented by Mr. Wells to the U. S. National Museum at Washington.

OCTOBER, 1886.

Family TURDIDÆ.

1. *Turdus nigrirostris* Lawr. Mountain Grieve; Thrush.

♂ Length, 9½ inches; expanse, 15¼ inches; wing, 5 inches.

♀ Length, 9 inches; expanse, 15 inches; wing, 4¾ inches.

This bird is exclusively confined to the deep woods, preferring the dark valleys along the mountain streams, and may always be found on the "figeir" trees, on the berries of which it feeds. It is rather a shy bird, and immediately makes off with a "cluck, cluck," on the approach of any one. Its note may be heard morning and evening, and has been compared to these words: "John Pierre oh—John Pierre oh—mi yes, mi yes, mi yes," with a stress on "Pierre," the last three words rather fast.

The nest is generally placed in the fork of a tree with dark foliage, and composed outwardly of dried roots and ferns, the shell of mud, and lined with finer roots. The eggs are three in number, of a pale green, speckled and blotched with reddish brown, the spots confluent at the large end. They measure 1.68 inches by .84 inch and 1.20 inches by .82 inch.

2. *Turdus gymnophthalmus* Cab. Yellow-eye Grieve; Thrush.

♂ Length, 9½ inches; expanse, 15½ inches; wing, 5 inches.

Abundant everywhere from the coast to the borders of the mountains, frequenting the cocoa fields and mango trees; feeds on "figeur" and other wild berries; also frequently seen on the ground scratching amongst the dead leaves for insects and larvæ; hence it is often caught in springs set for the "Pedrix." It has several notes very melodious, and also an alarm note or "cluck."

Its nest is generally placed in the fork of the cocoa (*Theobroma*), rather a rude and bulky structure, composed of dry roots and mud, with no soft lining for the eggs, which are three in number, of a pale green, thickly spotted with brown. They measure 1.06 inches by .80 inch, 1.16 inches by .80 inch, and 1.12 inches by .82 inch.

[I described the Grenada bird (Ann. N. Y. Acad. of Sci., Vol. I, p. 160) under the name of *Turdus carribaeus*. It is considered by Messrs. Sclater and Seebold not to differ from *T. gymnophthalmus*. I have three specimens of *gymnophthalmus*, one of them presented to me by Mr. Seebold. These are smaller in all their dimensions than the bird from Grenada, which has a perceptibly smaller bill; the feathers of the tail are broader and darker in color; the under wing-coverts are of a lighter pale salmon, and the inner margins of the quills are more cinnereous, are less tinged with salmon color, and the upper plumage is slightly darker in color than in my specimens of *gymnophthalmus*.

I will endeavor to get more specimens from Grenada, to see if these differences are constant.—G. N. L.]

3. *Mimus gilvus* Vieill. Mocking Bird; Pied Carreau.

♂ Length, 10 inches; expanse, 13½ inches; wing, 4½ inches; tail, 4 inches.

♀ Length, 9 inches; expanse, 12½ inches; wing, 4 inches.

Very numerous, though seldom seen in the mountains. It delights in the neglected pastures overgrown with "black sage," on the red berries of which it feeds, and several dozens may be seen at a time perched near to each other, alternately trilling forth most delightful music and devouring berries. On moonlight nights its note is heard at intervals of an hour; hence its being called by some a nightingale. It is found also on all the little rocky islands on the coast. The nest is a platform of dry sticks, with a round saucer-like depression in the middle, lined with fine roots and sometimes with horse-hair. The eggs vary exceedingly both in color and marking. They are sometimes of a pale blue and sometimes of a dull green, with spots, blotches, or rings of brown. It is seldom that two sets or clutches are found alike, and the three eggs in each set are usually different. For example, a set before me: One of them is rather long and with specks so faint that at a little distance it appears to be of a uniform pale blue; another is rather shorter, greenish, and thickly blotched with brown; and the third is thick at one end and

pointed at the other, pale bluish green, with a ring of brown spots round the blunt end. They measure 1.06 inches by .74 inch, 1.08 inches by .68 inch, and 1.12 inches by .78 inch.

Family TROGLODYTIIDÆ.

4. *Thryothorus grenadensis* Lawr. Wren; God Bird.

♂ Length, 5 inches; expanse, 7½ inches; wing, 2½ inches.

Active, fussy, noisy, yet pleasant withal, this little bird is found in the house, the sugar-works, or the woods, and though all other birds are shot, robbed, or stoned, the "Oiseau Bon-Dieu" is never molested, and seems to appreciate its immunity from the "ills that affect" its feathered brethren.

Its favorite spot for a nest is on the "plate" of a house, but it chooses many curious spots, such as a hole in a cliff, an old calabash, a hat hung up in a room, &c. In the chimney of the distillery at Mirebeau Estate there is now a wren's nest (February 3, 1882). In a crack in the masonry about 1 inch wide the bird enters to the nest, which is built on the projecting bricks inside. It kept going in and out, feeding its young, whilst there was a roaring fire in the distillery and smoke rushing up the chimney.

The nest is generally composed of fine dried roots and grapes, and lined with a thick coat of feathers. The eggs are four and sometimes five in number, of a dirty white, thickly sprinkled with bright reddish-brown specks. They measure .70 inch by .54 inch and .68 inch by .54 inch.

Family MINIOTILTIDÆ.

5. *Dendroica petechia* (Linn.). Yellow Bird.

♂ Length, 4½ inches; expanse, 7½ inches; wing, 2¾ inches.

Not numerous; very shy; frequents the mangrove trees near to the swamps on windward side of the island.

6. *Seiurus nœvius* (Bodd.). Water Thrush.

♀ Length, 6 inches; expanse, 9 inches; wing, 3½ inches; tail, 1¾ inches.

Not numerous; rather shy; seldom more than two seen together; frequents the mangrove swamps and outlets of streams.

7. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.). Redstart.

Family VIREONIDÆ.

8. *Vireosylvia calidris*, var. *dominicana*, Lawr. Bastard Grieve.

♀ Length, 6 inches; expanse, 10 inches; wing, 3½ inches.

♂ Length, 6 inches; expanse, 9½ inches; wing, 3¼ inches.

Pretty well distributed all over the island is this sprightly little bird. I have found it in the forests that surround the Grand Etang, 2,000 feet

above the sea, and among the manchioneel trees on the beach at Isle de Rhonde. It is very fond of a small green berry the fruit of a creeping parasite which spreads over the tops of high trees, and also feeds on small crickets and other insects.

The nest is pensile, something like a deep teacup in shape; the walls are compactly formed of flat grasses and fine tendrils. Eggs three in number, white, with a few scattered dark-brown spots, sometimes forming a ring round the larger end. They measure .86 inch. by .60 inch, .88 inch by .60 inch, and .92 inch by .60 inch.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ.

9. *Progne dominicensis* (Gm.). Purple Swallow.

♂ Length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 15 inches; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

♀ Length, 8 inches; expanse, $15\frac{7}{8}$ inches; wing, 6 inches.

Though preferring the vicinity of the sea-coast, these birds are often seen in large flocks skimming over the country districts. One morning after a shower of rain a large number were disporting around a large mango tree at my place (which is three miles from the coast), and I shot seven of them. They are fond of perching on the dry branches of the silk-cotton trees, clustered thickly together, during the middle of the day.

They make their nests in holes in the inaccessible cliffs of Soubise Island; also at the "Morne de Santeurs" and like places along the coast. I have hitherto been unable to procure their eggs.

10. *Hirundo erythrogaster*, Bodd. Rufous-belly Swallow.

Migrant. Large flocks appear in August and remain until March. They frequent the open pastures near the sea-shore, and may be observed skimming along the ground and occasionally alighting on a dry tree or shrub.

Family CCEREBIDÆ.

11. *Certhiola atrata* Lawr. Black See-see.

♂ Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Found everywhere except in the "high woods;" rather abundant along the roadsides; very fond of the flowers of the "morengu" tree, amongst which it may be seen inserting its little bill with a quiet, business-like air, sometimes hanging head downwards to reach a choice blossom; have observed a waxy substance adhering to the ridge of the upper mandible, probably collected from the flowers, and sometimes the head is covered with pollen, giving the bird a strange appearance. It also feeds on fruit, particularly bananas.

The nest is a domed structure, with a round opening at the side, composed generally of fine grasses, but sometimes intermixed with cotton, placed on a small shrub about 18 inches from the ground, or

pendent among the liannes 20 feet high and swinging with the breeze, and also in the razor-grass tufts. They nest all the year round. The eggs are three, and are of a dull white, with spots of purplish brown, generally thicker at the blunt end.

12. Certhiola saccharina Lawr. Suerier; Yellow See-see.

♂ Length, 4 inches; expanse, 7 inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

The most brilliant in plumage of our birds (excepting the humming birds), though, strange to say, it is not found in the island of Grenada itself, but in all the islands on the coast northwards. It is abundant at Isle de Ronde and Carriacou. Habits very similar to that of the black species above described.

The nest and eggs are not to be distinguished from that of *C. atrata*. I once observed a nest on a bracket to the spouting of a house in the town of Hillsboro', Carriacou.

Family TANAGRIDÆ.

13. Euphonia flavifrons (Sparrm.). Yellow Bird.

Not numerous; rather shy; frequents the tops of high trees covered with a creeping vine, on the seeds of which it feeds; nesting habits not determined.

14. Calliste versicolor Lawr. Sour-sop Bird.

♂ Length, 6 inches; expanse, 9 inches; wing, 3 inches; tail, 2 inches.

♀ Length, 6 inches; expanse, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, 2 inches.

This is a strong, robust bird, rather plentifully distributed all over the island. As its name implies, it is very partial to the fruit of the sour-sop, but feeds also on all kinds of fruit. It is very pugnacious when put in a cage along with other birds. I have seen one peck a hole in the head of a ♂ *L. noctis* within five minutes after being put together in a cage. It frequents the fruit-trees near the houses, and often nests in them. It robs the nests of other birds most unmercifully of materials for building its own.

The nest is generally placed in a forked branch, about 6 to 8 feet from the ground. It is round, with a deep cup-like depression, composed outwardly of flat leaves and fronds and lined with fine hairy roots and tendrils. The eggs are two, of a dull bluish white, plentifully spotted and blotched with brown and drab spots. They measure .90 inch by .62 inch and .90 inch by .64 inch.

[Soon after my description of this species Mr. Slater considered it not to differ from *Calliste cucullata*, Sw. His decision was accepted as correct, and it has been so noted by several writers.

In a revision of the Family Tanagridæ (Cat. of the Birds of the Brit. Museum, Vol. XI, p. 113) he restores it to specific rank, and remarks:

"At one time Mr. Salvin and I were inclined to believe that this

species was the same as *C. cucullata*, Sw. (cf. Ibis, 1879, p. 357), and that there might have been some error in the statement that Swainson's species came from Venezuela."—G. N. L.]

Family FRINGILLIDÆ.

15. *Loxigilla noctis* (Linn.). Red-throat See-see.

♂ Length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 8 inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

♀ Length, 5 inches; expanse, 8 inches; wing, $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Almost as familiar as the wren are this black fellow and his brown mate; plentifully distributed all over the island; feeds on fruit of all kinds; roosts in large numbers in the mango trees, also in churches and other large buildings. The Holy Innocents' Chapel is a favorite resort of these birds, where they nest in the ridge. A nest I procured from Saint Cyr House was built on the ledge above a window; very like a wren's in shape; no attempt at a dome. When they build in trees the nest is rather a large domed structure, with a round opening at the side, composed of fine dried leaves and stems, the bottom compactly formed and lined with soft grass. The eggs, three in number, are of a dirty white, speckled all over with reddish brown; sometimes the spots are confluent at the blunt ends. They measure .80 inch by .60 inch, one clutch; another measures .82 inch by .56 inch.

16. *Spermophila gutturalis* (Licht.). White-beak See-see.

♂ Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 7 inches; wing, 2 inches.

When the Guinea-grass fields are in seed numbers of these birds may be found feeding there morning and evening, flitting from one flower-stem to the other, which, bending down with their weight nearly to the ground, enables them to reach the bunch of seed at the end, which they soon pick clean. They are very shy, especially during the nesting period, and I have been baffled in identifying their nest. They build in the clumps of grass.

[This species is new to the West Indies. Examples from Panama and Bahia are rather larger, but there is no perceptible difference in plumage.—G. N. L.]

17. *Euethia bicolor* (Linn.). See-see Zerbe; Black-face Seed-eater.

♂ Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

♂ Length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; expanse, $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

This is an exceedingly common species; is found everywhere except in the mountains; feeds almost exclusively on the seeds of grasses. In the Guinea-grass field small flocks of six to ten may often be seen. They perch on the flower-stem, which bends down with their weight and enables them to pick off the seeds. When flying from one tuft of grass

to another they utter a note resembling "tsip, tsip." They build a domed nest, generally composed of fine roots and lined with soft dry grass (rather a bulky structure for such a small bird), placed in a small shrub or among the roots on a bank overhanging the road. The eggs are three and occasionally four in number, of a dull white, with several reddish-brown spots, confluent at the blunt end. They measure .59 inch by .48 inch.

18. Volatinia jacarina (Linn.). Blue-black Grass See-see.

♂ Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, 2 inches.

Rather shy; frequents pastures and Guinea-grass fields, on the seeds of which it feeds, running along under the grass and picking up the fallen seeds. Is fond of perching on a small dry shrub and springing into the air several times, uttering a prolonged "chur-r," always alighting on the same spot again. Found a nest in April at Hope Estate, in a pasture near the sea. The nest was placed in a tuft of grass about 6 inches off the ground, in shape like the bottom of a teacup, composed entirely of very fine dried roots, with no lining, 3 inches in diameter at top and 1 inch deep. The eggs are two, of a dirty white, with thick brown spots at the large end and scattered spots of the same color over the rest of the egg. They measure .68 inch by .50 inch and .66 inch by .48 inch. The female is brown.

[This species is new to the Lesser Antilles, but is found in Tobago.—
G. N. L.]

Family ICTERIDÆ.

19. Quiscalus luminosus, Lawr. Blackbird. Merle.

♂ Length, 10 inches; expanse, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

♀ Length, $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches; expanse, 13 inches; wing $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The *bête noir* of the Indian-corn grower and the friend of the stock-keeper, this bird is well known all over the island, gregarious, noisy, and quarrelsome, committing havoc among the young corn and exulting over the feast with its cry of "green-corn-sweet;" frequents cattle-pens and pastures, where they do excellent service in picking off the ticks and other vermin which infest the cattle; a common sight in the pastures are these birds walking about the backs of the cattle and clinging on to the tail in search of ticks; the animals seem to enjoy this, and will not even swish their tails for fear of disturbing their feathered friends; they feed also on earthworms and insects; have observed them eat fresh meat; fond of water; during the heat of the day they resort to the small streams for a bath, and then stretch their wings out to dry; they generally select a Mango tree for a roosting place, and the noise made by them when settling down for the night is almost deafening; they are heard occasionally during the night, and in the early morning the noise commences again, before they depart on their foraging expeditions.

They breed in colonies, several nests on the same tree, the Mango being a favorite for the purpose; sometimes they select the flower stems of the Palmiste, and on the little islands they build on the cactus clumps; the nest is rather a rude cup formed of dry roots and straws well plastered with cow-dung, in which they lay their eggs, measuring 1.02 inches by .76 inch, 1 inch by .72 inch, 1.10 inches by .74 inch; of a pale greenish-blue, with beautiful lines, blotches, and spots of purple, drab and dark brown.

20. Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linn.). Bobolink; Reed Bird.

♂ Length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 12 inches; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

This bird was shot on the eastern side of the island; it is quite new to me; it is one of five seen; they had evidently but just arrived and were feeding on grass-seeds; two of them were shot. No doubt it will prove to be a well-known species, but it is quite new to Grenada. [This species has not been observed before in the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

Family TYRANNIDÆ.

21. Elaenia martinica (Linn.). Top-knot Pippree.

♂ Length, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

This active little bird is very familiar, frequenting the vicinity of houses and the hedges and borders of the woods; it is very quick in all its motions, darting from branch to branch or at some flying insect with astonishing rapidity; it is very pugnacious; with crest erect and eyes flashing, it will pounce like a fury on a bird twice its size and inflict several thrusts with its sharp little bill. On calm still evenings several of these birds may be observed in company with others of the same family, springing a few feet into the air and returning to their perches after capturing the winged ants or other insects on which they feed. The voice of this little bird is the first to be heard in the early morning from 4.30 to 7 a. m., and has been compared to these words: "*Ladies, ladies, ladies, you're lazy.*" During the rest of the day this note is seldom heard, but occasionally it utters a single prolonged note, and when joined by its mate it gives out a series of joyful twitterings which would be difficult to render in words. The nest of this bird is truly a beautiful structure, recalling the lines—

“Mark it well within, without!
No tool had he that wrought, no knife to cut,
No nail to fix, no bodkin to insert,
No glue to join; his little beak was all;
And yet how neatly finished!”

It is generally placed in the fork of a small branch, and sometimes “saddled” on a large limb; the hog-plum tree (*spondias*) is often selected; in shape the nest is like a round shallow cup, measuring about 3 inches in diameter and 1 inch deep; it is composed outwardly of skel-

eton leaves and fine hairy substance, interwoven with cobwebs and cotton, or the soft down from the corkwood tree, and lined with very fine tendrils and feathers; the eggs are two in number and vary much in shape and markings; the general color is a very pale buff, with a scarcely perceptible pink tinge when fresh; round the blunt end is a circle of spots of brown, purple, and reddish-brown, with occasional scattered spots on the body of the egg; they measure .80 inch by .64 inch; in a few instances the spots may be found more or less confluent at the sharp end.

22. Myiarchus oberi (Lawr.). Pippiree gros-tête.

♀ Length, 9 inches; expanse, $12\frac{1}{8}$ inches; wing, 4 inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This is rather a foolish bird, not abundant, found in the mountains and also in the vicinity of dwellings, estates, buildings, &c.; feeds on winged insects; is fond of remaining for several minutes perched on a dry shrub or twig and uttering at intervals its call-note, "pleet, pleet." Mr. Ober says this bird is called the "Sunset-bird" in Dominica, as it utters at sunset a note resembling "soleil-couche"; I have studied this bird particularly, and never heard a note from it that could be rendered thus.

The nest is generally placed in a hole in a tree or in the end of a bamboo fence; one which I procured on the 15th April, 1882 (from a bamboo-joint, part of a cattle pen at Balthazar estate), was composed of cocoanut fiber, human hair, the skin of a snake, horse hair, and bits of old rag; another from a hole in a Cashew tree was composed of stuffing from an old saddle, and lined with horse hair.

The eggs are three and sometimes four in number, of a light buff color, thickly scribbled and blotched with purplish-brown; they measure .96 inch by .70 inch, .88 inch by .72 inch, and .90 inch by .72 inch.

23. [Blacicus flaviventris Lawrence. "Flycatcher? Sp.?"

Upper plumage dark hair-brown, deeper in color on the crown; tail colored like the back; quills brownish-black; wing-coverts dark brown, edged with clear pale rufous; throat of a dull pale fulvous; breast and abdomen pale yellow, intermixed with dusky; upper mandible black, the under clear light yellow; feet black.

In size about the same as *B. brunneicapillus*; wing, 2.50 inches; tail, 2.50; tarsus, .50; bill, .50.

"Shot at Hampden, St. Andrews, Grenada, 16th March, 1880."

Type in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks: The only species necessary to compare it with is *B. brunneicapillus* from Dominica; it differs from that, in having the abdomen yellow instead of reddish fulvous and the tail not tipped with fulvous; the under mandible is entirely yellow, not whitish with the end dusky as in *brunneicapillus*.

The specimen is in poor condition and I think is a young bird, but probably the adult would not differ materially in plumage.

Mr. Wells has as yet secured only this specimen; he writes about it as follows:

"I send you a very mutilated skin of a small bird which was shot in a cocoa field at St. Andrews; the ants got at the skin and nearly destroyed it. I hope, however, that you will be able to identify it. I once saw one of these birds on a tree overhanging the Grand Etang road, and this is the second I have seen."—G. N. L.]

24. *Tyrannus rostratus* (Sel.). "Pippiree."

♂ Length, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 15 inches; wing, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

♀ Length, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 14 inches; wing, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

On the terminal apex of the palmiste tree, or on some dry or leafless branch of the hog-plum, this bold and dashing bird may often be seen, on the lookout for a passing insect, or some hapless hawk or gaulin, which latter it seems to delight in tormenting, inflicting quick and sharp strokes with its powerful beak, and uttering after each stroke its shrill cry "pip-pi-ree," as if in exultation and triumph, whilst its victim flounders about in its endeavors to escape, with loud cries of pain. The hawk, when attacked, shows an inclination first to battle with his foe, by endeavoring to get above it, but the pippiree is too "wide-awake" for this, and soon compels him to dash down towards the ground or into some tree with thick foliage. The food of this bird is exclusively flies and other winged insects, which it takes by darting at them in the air, turning and twisting about with marvellous ease, while the snapping of its strong bill is heard as it closes over its prey; it also frequents ponds and streams, and may be observed skimming over the surface in the capture of the insects which usually abound in such places. The courage of this bird in defense of its nest is proverbial; both male and female will dart at any one climbing the tree on which the nest is built, and peck him about the face and hands. I have seen a pair of these birds attack a dog which happened to pass under their nesting tree and make it howl with pain; pigs also seem to be obnoxious to them when they approach the vicinity of their nests.

The hog-plum tree (*Spondias*) is a favorite resort of this bird for nesting; it builds also in the bread-fruit and in the fronds of the palmiste. The nest is rather loosely formed of dry tendrils, and occasionally the midribs of ferns and leaves; there is no soft lining for the eggs, though the shallow cup in the center is usually of finer materials than the foundation of the nest; the eggs are three, of a reddish-buff, handsomely marked with spots and blotches of red-brown and dark gray, the spots more or less confluent at the blunt end; the eggs measure 1.15 by .75 inch, 1.10 by .75 inch.

25. *Tyrannus melancholicus* Vieill.

Length, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

I send you by book-post a bird which I shot a few days ago. I have

only once before seen one of the kind, and this one I saw in the same locality twice before I had the opportunity to secure him, which I succeeded in doing by borrowing a gun which had a charge of shot big enough to kill a goat. The bird may prove to be *Tyrannus melancholicus*.

26. *Milvulus tyrannus* (Linn.). "Fork-tail Flycatcher."

♂ Length, $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches; expanse, 13 inches; wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

♀ Length, 9 inches; expanse, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This bird is a migrant, and arrives with us about the end of August and wings its way to Central America and thereabouts about the middle of February. It frequents the open pastures near the sea-shore, and preys on the winged insects which swarm about the swamps and rain-pools. It may often be seen perched on a dry shrub or twig, from which it darts among the flocks of plovers or sandpipers which may happen to pass within its sight, causing them to utter loud notes of pain from the attacks of its strong and sharp bill. When darting on its prey or inflicting punishment on some unoffending bird, the long tail feathers are opened and shut like a pair of shears. Like most of the Flycatcher family there is on the head of this bird a beautiful crest of bright crimson and yellow feathers, which is concealed, except when the bird is excited or in chase of its prey. This bird does not nest on the island.

[This has not been recorded before from the Lesser Antilles, which is surprising, as it is so conspicuous a bird and seems not to be rare in Grenada.—G. N. L.]

Family TROCHILIDÆ.

27. *Glaucis hirsutus* (Gm.). Brown Humming Bird; Doctor Bird.

♀ Length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; expanse, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Numerous in the mountainous and in the cocoa fields; feeds chiefly on insects, which it takes on the wing as well as from blossoms. Nest usually found hanging to a strip from the under side of a ballisier leaf. It is loosely formed of fine crisp tendrils, twined round the strip of leaf, forming a cup at top, with a long pendant of pieces of bark, &c. The eggs are two, pure white, and measure .60 by .34 inch.

28. *Eulampis holosericeus* (Linn.). Green Humming Bird.

♂ Length, $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches; expanse, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

♀ Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Not abundant; rather shy. Frequents the vicinity of dwellings, fruit trees, &c. Nest usually saddled on a large limb, beautifully formed of fine substances, coated with moss and spiders' webs. Eggs two, white.

29. *Orthorhynchus cristatus* (Linn.). Crested Humming Bird ; Coulibri.

Found everywhere ; common. Frequents also the little islets ; very pugnacious ; beats the chicken hawk. Nests on low branches ; very fond of the drooping branches of the nutmeg tree. Nest usually formed of the soft fur from the cork-wood tree and other fine substances. Lays two diminutive white eggs. Found a nest once on a sea-side grape at Soubise Island.

Family CYPSELIDÆ.

30. *Chætura cinereiventris* ScL. Mountain Swallow.

♂ length, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 10 inches; wing, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

♀ length, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Though more numerous in the mountains, this Swift is found everywhere, especially after a shower of rain. On the Grand Etang road they are plentiful; skimming along close to the ground, they will just rise and pass over the head of a traveler or dash on one side and return to the road again to feast on the insects disturbed by the tramp of the horse. They breed among the inaccessible cliffs in the mountains.

[This Swift has not been noted before from the Lesser Antilles, though it was observed by Mr. Ober in Grenada, but not identified.
—G. N. L.]

31. *Hemiprocne zonaris* (Shaw). Collared Swift.

On the 13th July, 1882, I was traveling through Tuilleries estate, and observed a large flock of birds hovering over a rocky hill; I got close up to them, and found them to be large Swifts, with a white collar round the neck. I went back about a mile and borrowed a gun, but just as I got to the hill again a hawk swooped down on the flock and dispersed them. I am told that they frequent that particular hill every year. I saw several of them on the 9th August about Grenville one afternoon after a heavy shower of rain. I have no doubt that they are identical with the "Ringed gowrie" described in Gosse's Birds of Jamaica.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ.

32. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.). Belted Kingfisher.

♂ Length, 13 inches; expanse, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Migrant; arrives September; a few stragglers remain all the year; exceedingly shy; frequents the mouths of rivers; sometimes follows the streams for three or four miles inland; does not nest on the island.

Family CUCULIDÆ.

33. *Coccyzus minor* (Gm.). Cuckoo manioc.

♂ Length, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Not numerous; seldom more than one seen at a time; frequents hills and valleys; feeds on crickets and other insects; breeds in May; nest very difficult to find; eggs pale sea-green.

34. *Crotophaga ani* Linn. Corbeau.

♂ Length, 15 inches; expanse, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 6 inches.

Abundant everywhere; gregarious; feeds on crickets and other insects; cleans the ticks off cattle; and is very destructive to the fields of Indian corn. The nesting habits of this bird are peculiar. The number of eggs laid by each bird cannot be ascertained, as several of them lay in the same nest. The eggs when first laid are of a uniform sea-green, but after a day or two they become coated with a white chalky substance, and this, in turn, becomes scratched by the feet of the birds, giving the eggs a strange appearance. The nest is first rather flat, in which six or seven eggs are laid; then another nest is built over them, and about the same number of eggs deposited; this is also built over, and more eggs laid. I once found a nest in an orange tree which had four layers of eggs. How the hatching is effected I have not ascertained. I have seen three of the birds sitting together on the nest while several others were perched close to it. They often cover the eggs with dry leaves. I believe that after the top layer of eggs is hatched and the young reared the nest is scratched away down to the second layer, which is then hatched, as I have often found fragments of the nest and egg-shells under a tree which I had been watching for some time, and noticed the nest reduced in size. The eggs measure 1.28 inches by 1.04 inches and 1.32 inches by 1.02 inches.

Family STRIGIDÆ.

35. *Strix flammea*, var. *nigrescens*, Lawr. Owl. Chawan.

♂ Length, 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 32 inches; wing, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Owing to its nocturnal habits, this bird is more often heard than seen, though it is well distributed about the island. It frequents ruined buildings, decayed "groo-groo" and other trees, and the dark valleys in the mountains. The R. C. church in Grenville was a favorite haunt of this owl. During a midnight service there I have observed several of them flying in and out, engaged in feeding their young, which were on the walls, and making a loud hissing noise all the while. The owl has been regarded with superstitious awe in many countries, and here it is not exempt from the same, as there are many who still believe that the screech of this bird heard near to a dwelling bodes evil or death to one of the inmates; certainly its cry heard "at dead of night" has rather a weird and "uncanny" sound, but it is quite as natural and harmless as the familiar warble of the house-wren. The food of the owl consists of small lizards, mice, and bats; also, some kinds of fruit, particularly that of the almond tree. It is a great robber of the pigeon cot, taking the young from the nest.

The eggs of the owl are two, nearly spherical in form, and of a dull white color.

Family FALCONIDÆ.

36. *Falco columbarius* Linn. Pigeon Hawk.

♂ Length, 12 inches; expanse, 24½ inches; wing, 8 inches.

Migrant; a few arrive with the *Limicolæ* in August and September, and frequent the pastures near the sea-coast. They prey on the small sandpipers, &c.

[This hawk has not been observed before in the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

37. *Tinnunculus sparverius caribbæarum* (Gm.). Sparrow Hawk.

Resident; rare and rather shy; occasionally seen darting across a pasture or into a flock of birds; have not been able to procure the nest.

38. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (Gm.). Osprey. Fish Hawk.

♀ Length, 23 inches; expanse, 67½ inches; wing, 20 inches; tail, 9 inches.

This large and powerful bird is a non-resident, though a straggler or two may be observed all the year round. It generally arrives about the month of August, and frequents the bays along the eastern coast of the island. It sometimes follows the streams for three or four miles inland. The specimen from which the above measurements were taken was shot on the Great River, near to the Balthazar Bridge. It had a most unpleasant odor, and was infested with vermin of three kinds. A remarkable coincidence was, that, whilst I was dissecting this bird, a second (probably its mate) flew past, within twenty feet of the window at which I sat. The talons of this bird are remarkably well adapted for holding its slippery prey. I once observed a fish-hawk swoop down into the *boucherie* at Telescope and rise again slowly with a fish in its talons. I ran, endeavoring to get a shot at it, when it took flight, and, dropping its prey on the sands, was soon out of range. The fish I picked up, and found it to be a "*Grand-écaille*," which weighed nearly four pounds. This bird does not nest on the island.

39. *Buteo latissimus* (Wils.). Chicken Hawk. Gree-gree.

♂ Length, 16 inches; expanse, 34½ inches; wing, 11 inches.

♀ Length, 15 inches; expanse, 34½ inches; wing, 10¼ inches.

Numerous; feeds on lizards, rats, snakes, young birds, &c., and occasionally makes a raid on the poultry yard; breeds on the fronds of the palmiste, and on large trees like the silk-cotton (*Ceiba*); nest a large bulky structure of dry sticks; eggs two, buff color, spotted and blotched with reddish-brown.

40. *Regerhinus uncinatus* (Temm.). Merlion. Mountain Hawk.

No. A.—Blue Hawk. ♂. Sp. ?. Morne Rouge, 26 March, 1885. 16 16 inches by 31½ by 10 inches.

No. B.—Hawk. ♀. Sp.?. Morne Rouge, 26 March 1885. $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 34 inches by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

I was pleased to learn that the Hawk had come to hand, and that it was new to the Antilles. It is a resident, though not numerous, and seems to prefer the vicinity of the sea-coast. I saw a nest about half a mile from the sea; it was built in an inaccessible tree, so that I could not procure the eggs, but the birds I identified clearly. This was about the middle of March.

[This hawk is an interesting addition to the fauna of the Lesser Antilles; the two specimens sent by Mr. Wells differ in plumage from any others I have met with. It seems to be a species of most variable plumage. I have two specimens of it; one is from Brazil, the upper plumage of which is of very dark-brown color; the under plumage is white, connecting with which is a band of white on the hind neck; the tail is marked with alternate bars of black and plumbeous-gray, and terminates with white. The other from Guatemala is entirely of a deep slate-black, with a broad white band across the middle of the tail.

In the American Museum of Natural History are six specimens of it, differing very much in plumage from each other.

The Grenada birds are entirely unlike my specimens, or any single specimen in the American Museum. The male has its upper plumage of a dark plumbeous-slate color, there is a band of bright light rufous around the hind-neck, bordered below with deep rich brown; the upper tail coverts have light plumbeous margins; the tail feathers are black, crossed with two bands of plumbeous-gray, and are white at their bases; the quills are brownish-ash barred with black; the under plumage is dull white, closely crossed with bars of bright brownish-rufous; under tail coverts pale rufous, marked with narrow bars of darker rufous; the upper mandible is black, the under plumbeous, with the end whitish; tarsi and toes yellow, claws black.

The female differs in having the upper plumage dark brown, the feathers of which are conspicuously margined with deep bright rufous; the wings are deep rufous barred with black; the under plumage is very similar to that of the male, but the rufous bars are lighter and brighter in color.

Of the American Museum specimens only one is crossed underneath with rufous bars like the Grenada examples, but its upper plumage is quite different. Taking the under plumage of this specimen and the upper plumage of another, a similar stage of plumage to that of the male Grenada bird is made out; this last one, with the plumbeous upper plumage, is underneath of a light bluish-ash, barred with white, and has no nuchal collar, and no rufous color whatever in its plumage.

In the specimens I have had under examination, there are at least six very distinct stages of plumage.—G. N. L.]

Family COLUMBIDÆ.

41. *Columba corensis* Gm. Ramier.

♂ Length, 16 inches; expanse, 26½ inches; wing, 8¾ inches.

This beautiful pigeon is our finest game bird. Its flesh is considered a great delicacy, and it is almost the only bird that is shot and brought into the market for sale. It is strictly arboreal, and frequents the highest mountain ridges. About the month of April it resorts to the vicinity of the sea-coast, and then to the islets, on which it nests. The nest is often placed in a tuft of grass, and also on the spreading branches of the mangrove and sea-side grape; it is usually composed of a few dry sticks, hollowed in the middle by the weight of the bird; the eggs are two, pure white, and of the size of those of the domestic pigeon, though somewhat more spherical in shape.

42. *Zenaida martinicana* Bp. Tourterelle. Seaside Dove.

♂ Length, 11¾ inches; expanse, 18 inches; wing, 6½ inches.

Very numerous all round the island, though seldom found higher than two miles from the sea; frequents the mangrove trees, open pastures, the cliffs overhanging the sea, and the little islets; feed on fallen berries and seeds, pigeon peas, &c.; makes its nest generally in a tuft of grass, sometimes on the bare ground, and on ledges along the cliffs; the eggs are two, pure white in color.

43. *Zenaida rubripes* Lawr. Trinidad Ground Dove.

It is with great pleasure that I now forward to you by book-post (registered) a skin of the Dove known locally as the "Trinidad Ground Dove." This bird was shot on the eastern side of the island and sent to me by a brother of mine who knew I was anxious to procure a specimen of it. It is not a common bird. I have shot three or four of them on a small island off the south coast called "Glover's Island," where I believe they resort to during the nesting period, and I have also shot one in Carriacou, but have never until this instance seen one taken on the island proper. The present specimen is a ♀, and I would have been very glad to get a ♂ also, as (writing from memory) I believe the ♂ to have a gray head. However, I shall use every endeavor to procure one. I trust the skin will reach you safely and that you may be able to identify it. The bird was much injured by shot and decomposed when it reached me, hence the skin is not a very good one.

[For the description of this species, see The Auk, vol. II, page 357.—G. N. L.]

44. *Engyptila wellsi* Lawr. (Auk, vol. I, p. 180). Pea Dove.

Dove sp. ?

A beautiful dove, new to me, about the size of *Z. martinicana*; frequents a place called Fontenoy, on the western side of the island.

Since I last wrote you I have been able to procure four live specimens of the Dove called "Pea Dove" on my list. One of these died a day or two ago, and I send you the skin per book-post, which I trust will reach you and serve to identify the bird. The skin is a poor one, as the bird had injured itself considerably by fluttering in the cage, and the person who caught it had clipt off the ends of the wing feathers to prevent its flying away. However, I thought that it might still serve the purpose of identification, so I send it per post.

[This species is described in *The Auk*, vol. I, p. 180.—G. N. L.]

[Since my description of this species, the type of which is a female, Mr. Wells has obtained and sent me a fine adult specimen of the male, "shot at Glover's Island, a mile from the south end, May 25, 1886."

Mr. Wells was correct when he wrote: "I believe the male to have a gray head."

It differs from the female in the front being vinous, in having the crown of a bluish-gray color, which color extends on the hind neck, but there it is of a duller shade. The lower part of the back, rump, and upper tail coverts are of a rather darker and duller bluish gray than the crown. The color of the breast, abdomen, and under tail coverts, in this specimen, are of a much paler cinnamon, and the quills are darker than those of the female, being blackish brown. In all other respects they are alike.

The feet are dark carmine, much brighter than in the female as shown at present, the color in that having faded.—G. N. L.]

45. *Columbigallina passerina* (Linn). Ground Dove; Ortolan.

♂ Length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, expanse, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Common. Found along the roadside, in the pastures, and along the sea-shore; nests on the bare ground, or on a short stump or tuft of grass; a rude nest formed of dried stalks and grass, in which it lays two pure white eggs measuring .85 inch by .60 inch.

46. *Geotrygon montana* (Linn). Perdrix; Mountain Dove.

♂ Length, $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, $17\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 6 inches; tail, 3 inches.

♀ Length, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 17 inches; wing, 6 inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Traveling along our mountain roads in the early morning, the plaintive moan of this beautiful dove is often heard; and among the cocoa fields and nutmeg groves one or two brace may be flushed morning and evening. It is essentially a ground pigeon, and seeks its food by scratching amongst the fallen leaves for small seeds, gravel, &c. It is very partial to seeds of the "Christmas bush" tree, or wild pimento. The beautiful bright chestnut of the male makes it conspicuous in contrast with the sober olive-brown of the female; hence the former more often falls a victim to the gun. They are easily caught alive in springs

set amongst their haunts, but are difficult to keep in captivity except when taken young from the nest. I have kept several which were taken full grown, and after being in the cage for more than a year they would continue to flutter and batter their heads on the approach of any one. The nest (which is generally placed on a stump or fallen tree, about 3 to 4 feet from the ground, and sometimes in a tuft of "razor-grass") is merely a platform of dry leaves and a few sticks on which a slight depression is made by the bird sitting on it (both male and female take part alternately in the process of incubation). In this it lays two buff-colored eggs, immaeulate, and it is remarkable that one of the eggs in each nest is invariably much darker than the other. They measure 1.04 inches by .84 inch and 1.06 inches by .80 inch.

Family ARDEIDÆ.

47. Ardea herodias Linn. Large Crabier.

♂ Length, 61½ inches; expanse, 71 inches; wing, 19½ inches.

Migrant; not numerous; frequents swamps, mouths of rivers, and occasionally follows the streams up to the mountains.

48. Ardea candidissima Gm. White Gaulin.

Though a specimen of this bird was obtained here by Mr. Ober, I have not been able to discover one. White gaulins are seen everywhere, but they are the young of *F. cœrulea*. There is no record of a *White Gaulin's nest* ever having been found.

49. Ardea cœrulea Linn. Blue Gaulin.

♀ Length, 21 inches; expanse, 36 inches; wing, 10 inches.

♂ Length, 21½ inches; expanse, 35½ inches; wing, 10 inches.

A very common bird; may be found wherever there is water. They breed on the small islands, several nests on the same tree. The nest is but a flat platform of dry sticks. The eggs can be seen through the nest. They lay two eggs, and often three or four, of a beautiful bluish green, measuring 1.66 by 1.32, 1.68 by 1.30. The young are pure white, and grow to their full size before the change of feathers takes place. Then they may be observed in all stages, from a few specks of blue to a few specks of white, until the pure blue of the adult is reached.

50. Ardea virescens Linn. Kyallie.

A very common bird on our streams and along the sea-shore; feed on small crabs and fish; breed among the mangroves and trees overhanging the water. Found a nest in an orange tree at Balthazar, near to the dwelling-house which is not far from the great river. The nest is but a few dry sticks laid across each other. The eggs are two and occasionally three, of a uniform bluish green. They measure 1.42 inches by 1.10 inches and 1.32 inches by 1.02 inches.

51. Nyctiorax violaceus (Linn.). Crabier. Night Heron.

♀ Length, 22½ inches; expanse, 37½ inches; wing, 12 inches.

Found in the mangrove swamps and about the mouths of rivers. Is rather shy, seeking its food after dusk along the sea-shore, where it preys on the sand-crabs and small fry. Travelers along the road from Pearls to Conference beach at night are often startled by the loud "quok" of these birds as they rise from the ground. They sometimes build in the mangroves, but generally resort to the rocky islets during the nesting period, in April and May. Hope Island and Labaye Rock are favorite breeding places. There they build in the prickly-pear bushes a large platform of dry sticks, on which is laid three eggs (sometimes two) of a uniform bluish green, measuring 2.10 inches by 1.48 inches; 2.12 inches by 1.50 inches, and 2.16 inches by 1.48 inches.

Family PLATALEIDÆ.

52. Ajaja rosea (Linn.). Roseate Spoonbill.

[Mr. Wells remarks of this species: "Never seen or heard of by me." Mr. Ober gives it in his catalogue of the Birds of Grenada; he did not observe it, but says: "A very rare migrant, said to have been seen here."

I have thought best to include it, as it is the only species enumerated by Mr. Ober, not obtained by Mr. Wells.—G. N. L.]

Family CHARADRIIDÆ.

53. Charadrius dominicus Müll. American Golden Plover.

♀ Length, 10 inches; expanse, 23 inches; wing, 7½ inches.

Migrant; arrive in large flocks early in September; frequent the open pastures; afford fine sport until November.

54. Charadrius squatarola (Linn.). Grey Plover.

♀ Length, 11½ inches; expanse, 23½ inches; wing, 7¼ inches.

Migrant; arrives in September and October; not numerous; rather shy.

55. Egialitis semipalmata Bonap. Ring-neck Plover.

♂ Length, 7½ inches; expanse, 14¾ inches; wing, 5 inches.

Migrant; arrives in August and September; frequents the sand-beach; abundant.

56. Oxyechus vociferus (Linn.). Killdeer.

♂ Rare migrant; 9¾ inches by 20 inches by 6¾ inches.

Family STREPSILIDÆ.

57. Strepsilas interpres (Liun.). Turnstone.

♀ Length, 9 inches; expanse, 18¾ inches; wing, 6 inches.

Several arrive along with the plovers; frequents the sea-shore and mouths of streams; often found among the drift-wood and débris cast up by the sea.

Family SCOLOPACIDÆ.

58. Gallinago delicata (Ord.). Wilson's Snipe.

♂ Length, 11 inches; expanse, 17½ inches; wing, 5½ inches; tail, 2 inches; bill, 2½ inches.

Migrant; a few arrive in September; frequents the swampy flats near the sea.

59. Micropalama himantopus (Bouap.). Stilt Sandpiper.

♂ Length, 9 inches; expanse, 16 inches; wing, 5½ inches.

Not abundant; frequents the edges of pools and streams; migrant.

60. Actodromas maculata (Vieill.). Grass bird. Pectoral Sandpiper.

♀ Length, 9½ inches; expanse, 18 inches; wing, 5¾ inches.

Large flocks arrive in September and October; frequent the open pasture; become very fat; good shooting.

61. Ereunetes pusillus (Linn.). Small Sandpiper.

♂ Length, 6 inches; expanse, 11½ inches; wing, 3¾ inches.

Arrive in great numbers in August and September; frequent the sea-shore and swamp edges.

62. Limosa fedoa (Linn.). Marbled Godwit.

♂ Length, 17 inches; expanse, 29½ inches; wing, 9 inches.

A few arrive with the first flight of yellow-legs, &c.

63. Symphemia semipalmata (Gmel.). Willet.

64. Actitis macularia (Linn.). Spotted Sandpiper.

♀ Length, 7½ inches; expanse, 12¾ inches; wing, 3¾ inches.

Large numbers arrive in August and September. Several stragglers remain all the year round, frequent the sea-shore, and follow the streams for four or five miles inland.

65. Bartramia longicauda (Bechst.). Cotton-tree Plover.

♂ Length, 11¾ inches; expanse, 22½ inches; wing, 6¾ inches.

♀ Length, 11½ inches; expanse, 19¾ inches; wing, 6¾ inches.

Not numerous. Arrives in September; frequents the hilly pastures, with tufts of grass, &c.; very wary; affords excellent shooting.

[This is an addition to the fauna of the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

66. Totanus flavipes (Gmel.). Small Yellow-legs.

♀ Length; 10½ inches; expanse, 19½ inches; wing, 6 inches.

Large numbers begin to arrive early in August; frequent the edges of swamps and rain-pools.

67. Totanus melanoleucus (Gmel.). Large Yellow-legs. Piker.

♀ Length, 13½ inches; expanse, 22 inches; wing, 7¾ inches.

Arrive a little later than the preceding; frequent marshy lowlands; fine shooting.

68. Numenius hudsonicus (Lath.). Large Curlew.

A rare migrant.

69. Numenius borealis (Forst.). Curlew.

Several along with the plovers.

[Not before noted from the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

Family RALLIDÆ.

70. Porzana carolina (Linn.). Sora Rail.

♀ Length, 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; expanse, 12 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; wing, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

A familiar object about the swamps is this lively little bird, where it may be observed running along on the leaves of the water lilies and flicking up its short tail all the while. Found it numerous at Isle de Rhonde in January. On the 25th February, 1883, one was caught alive at Mount Parnassus, in a trap set for ground doves and baited with Indian corn. I have not yet procured its eggs or observed its nest.

71. Ionornis martinica (Linn.). Kascamiol; Purple Gallinule.

This bird is rather abundant on the little islands between this and Carriacou, where it is often taken alive in "fish pots" baited with corn. On one island (Mabouya) the people who cultivate it destroy numbers of the eggs of this bird every year, as they state that the bird destroys their growing crops of Indian corn. I have kept a pair of live ones for more than two years. A pair has just been taken away to England by a gentleman who intends to present them to the Zoological Society there.

72. Gallinula galeata (Licht.). Red-head Water Fowl.

♀ Length, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 23 inches; wing, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Abundant; frequents all the swamps; occasionally found on the streams inland; numerous at Lake Antoine and at Isle de Rhonde, though I have not observed it at the Grand Etang; builds a large flat nest among the rushes, the bottom of the nest generally resting on the water; found nest with four eggs at Telescope Swamp.

73. Fulica americana, Gm. Coot. Poule d'Eau.

♀ Length, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 26 inches; wing, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Found on the Grand Etang or mountain lake, Lake Antoine, and all the large swamps; also numerous at the fresh-water pond at Isle de Rhonde; they afford fine shooting, though difficult to retrieve if wounded, as they dive and swim under water very fast. They may often be seen swimming with a large brood of young, which all dive on the least alarm and rise again at a considerable distance; they will continue to dive and rise until the rushes at the side are gained, when they secrete themselves. Occasionally the adult birds will fly along the surface of the water, the end of the wings touching the water and leaving a clear "wake" behind them. They nest on the borders of the swamps, &c.

Family ANATIDÆ.

74. Anas discors Linn. Blue-wing Teal.

Large numbers arrive in our ponds and swamps early in October. On January 3, 1883, found numbers of them at Isle de Rhonde found nesting; got several eggs; they were incubated; large embryo in them.

75. Anas boschas Linn. Mallard.

This duck visits us in October and affords fine shooting.
[Not before noted from the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

76. Black Duck, sp.?

A small duck, quite black, occasionally found in the sea. I shot one a couple of years ago.

[No example of this duck has been sent, therefore it remains unidentified for the present.—G. N. L.]

77. Erismatura rubida (Wils.). Ruddy Duck.

[This species has not been observed before in the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

Family FREGATIDÆ.

78. Fregata aquila (Linn.). Man-o-war Bird. Fregate.

♂ Length, 39½ inches; expanse, 82 inches; wing, 25½ inches.

Numerous; breed on the rocky islets; found nests with young in May at "Kick-em-Jenny," a peaked rock off the north end of the island. They beat the Boobies and Gulls making them disgorge their prey, which the Man-o-war bird catches in the air and devours.

Family PELECANIDÆ.

79. Pelecanus fuscus (Linn.). Pelican; Grand-gorgé.

♂ Length, 48 inches; expanse, 73½ inches; wing, 20 inches.

Very numerous all round the island and among the grenadiers. In September and October large numbers come into the bays to feed on "sprat" and "fry." Their breeding place has not been clearly determined; they are supposed to breed on some of the isolated rocks and on the mainland of America.

80. Sula sula (Linn.). Booby: Fou.

Numerous; breeds on islets; nests in trees; several nests on same tree.

81. Sula piscator (Linn.). Red-foot Booby.

Abundant at "Kick-em-jenny." Found nests there in May, some with young and some just building. The nest is a large flat structure of dry sticks, placed on the outspread branch of a large leafless tree.

82. *Sula cyanops* Sundev. White Booby: Blue-faced Gannet.

Not abundant; observed several building in trees at Kick-em-jenny in May.

I went on a collecting trip to our little islands about the middle of May, which proved a disastrous one. I procured several specimens, amongst which were four "Boobies," but got swamped in a boat, owing to the heavy sea, and lost them all. Two of the Boobies were new to me, viz., a white one with red feet (*Sula piscator?*) and one which was all brown except the tail, which was white; feet also lake-red (*S. parva?*). They were building nests in trees; several nests on same tree. I could not procure any eggs, as the trees overhung the rocks, and were inaccessible. The other Boobies observed were brown; one with white breast, feet dull pale yellow (*S. fiber* or *S. fusca?*).

Family PHÆTHONIDÆ.

83. *Phaëthon aethereus* Linn. Boatswain; Tropic Bird; Paille-en-queue.

♀ Length, 38 inches; expanse, 41 inches; wing, 13 inches; tail feather, 19½ inches.

These birds are abundant amongst the small islands between this and Carriacou, notably the La Tantes, where they breed in holes in the rock; they are easily taken alive whilst sitting on their nests; they are very graceful on the wing, the long tail feathers having a tremulous motion; they utter a shrill grating cry at intervals whilst flying, from which the name Boatswain has been given them by sailors. In Pere Labat's book, published in 1722, there is an illustration of one of these birds, called by him *Paille-en-cul*, a name by which it is known to the inhabitants of Isle de Rhonde at the present day. The male bird has two of the long tail feathers; the female only one. The specimen from which the above measurements were taken was shot on the wing at La Tantes Islands on 20th January, 1881. A live one was taken from a nest at the same place in April last and brought to me; it lived for two days.

Family LARIDÆ.

84. *Larus atricilla* Linn. Mauve; Laughing Gull.

♂ Length, 16½ inches; expanse, 39 inches; wing, 12 inches.

Numerous all round the island; several of them attend on the flocks of pelicans, and when those birds dive for fish the gulls swoop down with them and pluck the fish or a part of it from the mouths of the pelicans, uttering at the same time their peculiar laughing cry, which the fishermen interpret as "half," "half." On the 15th May, 1882, I observed a number of these birds at Isle de Rhonde, hovering over a large Figueur tree. On going up to the tree I found that they were plucking and eating the berries; they never alighted on the branches, but kept hovering around and plucking at the fruit, keeping up an in-

cessant laughing all the while. They nest on the ledges of the cliffs overhanging the sea.

85. *Sterna maxima* Bodd. Royal Tern.

♂ Length, 19 inches; expanse, 44 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Not abundant; frequents the bays on the eastern side of the island; two or three are often seen in Grenville Harbor, where they roost at night on the buoys laid down for warping vessels; nest on the islets in April and May.

86 *Sterna dougalli* Mont. Roseate Tern; Careete.

♂ Length, 12 inches; expanse, 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Numerous: frequent all the bays around the coast; breed on the island; found nests with two eggs each at Lee Rocks in May.

87. *Sterna fuliginosa* Gm. "Twa-oo."

This tern is abundant at Isle de Rhonde, Kickem-jenny, and all the small keys to the northward of the island. Large numbers breed on the "Lee Rocks." A friend of mine has one of these birds, which he reared from a nestling. It is kept in the house yard and serves the purpose of a watch-dog, as it gives notice of the approach of a stranger with a shrill grating cry. It is fed on bits of fish, and seems quite contented, though he is in company with Ramiers, Tourterelles, Perdrix, Ring Doves, and Pea Doves, all occupying a large aviary. Both the Bridled tern and this species are known locally by the name "twa-oo."

88. *Sterna anæthetus* Scop. Twa-oo; Bridled Tern.

♀ Length, 15 inches; expanse, 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 11 inches.

Abundant among the islets; found nests at Lee Rocks in May; eggs two; general color light buff, with dark brown spots and blotches; they vary considerably in shape and markings.

89. *Anous stolidus* Linn. Mwen; Noddy Tern.

♂ Length, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; expanse, 32 inches; wing, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Very abundant; large flocks may be seen feeding on "sprats" between the islands; found numerous nests at Lee Rocks early in May, some in tufts of short grass, others on the bare rock; the nests are placed very close to each other; the eggs are two in number and vary considerably both in color and markings.

Family PROCELLARIIDÆ.

90. *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kuhl). Wilson's Petrel.

♀ Length, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; expanse, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, 3 inches. Wings when closed project 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches beyond the tail.

Abundant; follow in the wake of boats and vessels; procured one from a fisherman, who struck it with an oar whilst following his boat

about a mile from shore; it was alive and pecked viciously at my hand, making a peculiar hissing sound at the same time; nesting place and habits not known.

[This species has not been noted before from the Lesser Antilles.—G. N. L.]

Family PODICIPITIDÆ.

91. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.). Diver,

♂ Length, 14 inches; expanse, 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 5 inches.

Numerous at Lake Antoine and the mangrove swamps on the east coast, also at the fresh-water pond at Isle de Rhonde.

92. *Podiceps holbællii*? Red-back Diver.

Abundant at Isle de Rhonde pond. A few only observed at Lake Antoine.

[Mr. Wells has this bird in his list as *Podiceps holbölli*?, and calls it "The Red-back Diver."]

No specimens have been sent, and I doubt that it is the species he supposes it to be, viz, the Amer Red-necked Grebe, of which he gives the scientific name, although he calls it the "Red-back Diver;" possibly a slip of the pen.

The Amer Red-necked Grebe is strictly a northern species. Its appearance in winter along the New England coast, and as far South as New Jersey, is irregular, and it is viewed in the light of a straggler.

It has never been noted from any of the most northerly of the West India Islands, and now that it is given as abundant in the most southerly island of the Lesser Antilles, seems to preclude the possibility of its being this species.

I hope before long to get specimens for its identification.—G. N. L.]