

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW BIRDS COLLECTED ON THE
ISLANDS OF ALDABRA AND ASSUMPTION, NORTHWEST OF
MADAGASCAR, BY DR. W. L. ABBOTT.

BY

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Curator of the Department of Birds.

1. *Ixocincla madagascariensis rostrata* subsp. nov.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to true *I. madagascariensis*, but larger, the bill especially, and coloration paler.

HAB.—Aldabra and Gloriosa islands.

Type, No. 128,658, male ad., Aldabra Island, October 2, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Length (before skinning), $9\frac{5}{8}$ inches; wing, 4.50; tail, 4.00; exposed culmen, 0.82; depth of bill through nostril, 0.28; tarsus, 0.86; middle toe, 0.65. "Bill orange-red, tip black; feet fleshy brown." (ABBOTT, MS.)

2. *Buchanga aldabrana* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Differing from *B. atra* in larger and more strongly hooked bill, much longer nasal plumes (reaching halfway from nostrils to tip of bill), much narrower rectrices, and in the very pale coloration of the female.

Adult male (type, No. 128,719, U. S. Nat. Mus., Aldabra Island, October 8, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott): Entirely black, glossed with greenish blue, the remiges and rectrices much duller, more brownish, and very faintly glossed. "Irides red, bill and feet black." Length (before skinning), 11.25; wing, 5.30; tail, 5.55; middle feathers, 4.20; culmen (from extreme base), 1.15; depth of bill through nostril, 0.38; tarsus, 0.92; middle toe, 0.60.

Adult female (No. 128,722, same locality and collector, October 2, 1892): Above dull slate-gray, the margins of the feathers on forehead and hind neck and lower part of rump approaching grayish white; wing-coverts dull greenish slate indistinctly edged with dull brownish white; remiges and rectrices dull grayish brown, edged with paler. Under parts grayish white, the feathers of the breast, belly, etc., dusky grayish be-

neath the surface; under wing-coverts almost wholly pure white. Bill, legs, and feet black; "irides reddish brown." Length (before skinning), 9.75; wing, 4.80; tail, 4.80; middle feathers, 4.08; culmen (to concealed base), 1.12; depth of bill through nostril, 0.38; tarsus, 0.90; middle toe, 0.60.

Immature males are variously intermediate in color between the adult male and adult female.

The collection contains three adult males, two immature males, and one adult female, representing dates from October 2-19, inclusive.

3. *Foudia aldabrana* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *F. madagascariensis* (LINX.), but very much larger.

Adult male (type, No. 128,692, U. S. Nat. Mus., Aldabra Island, October 5, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott): Head, neck, chest, and upper breast bright scarlet (flame scarlet on under parts); rest of under parts rather light chrome-yellow, tinged with orange on abdomen and with scarlet on the crissum. Lores and orbits black. Back and scapulars light yellowish olive broadly streaked with black; rump plain light tawny olive-brown; upper tail-coverts flame-scarlet. Wings dull blackish, all the feathers margined with light olive or olive-yellowish; tail olive-grayish, the feathers edged with yellowish olive. "Bill black; irides dark brown; feet brownish flesh." Length (before skinning), 6.50 inches; wing, 3.30; tail, 2.10; culmen, 0.75; depth of bill at base, 0.50; tarsus, 0.92; middle toe, 0.65.

Adult female (No. 128,690, same locality and collector, October 3): Pileum and hind neck deep olive-buff, narrowly and rather indistinctly streaked with dusky; superciliary stripe, cheeks, and sides of neck, light brownish yellow; a post-ocular streak of dusky; anterior under parts pale Naples-yellow (palest on throat), the posterior lower parts deeper yellow. Otherwise like the adult male, but without trace of red anywhere. "Upper mandible horny brown, lower mandible pale horny; feet flesh-color." Length (before skinning), 5.50; wing, 3.05; tail, 2.10; culmen, 0.70; depth of bill at base, 0.50; tarsus, 0.85; middle toe, 0.60.

Two other adult males show a mixture of red on the back, and one of them has the lower rump, as well as the upper tail-coverts, red. It is therefore probable that in full plumage this species has the red as extensive as in *F. madagascariensis*.

A young male is like the female described above, but is somewhat brighter yellow beneath.

4. *Rougetius aldabranus* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *R. gularis*, of Assumption, but without trace of dusky streaks on dorsal region, and with white bars on belly and flanks much less distinct (sometimes almost wanting).

Type, No. 128,835, U. S. Nat. Mus., Aldabra Island, October 10, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Length (before skinning), 12.50 inches, "irides chestnut-brown; feet blackish brown; bill black, base pink."

Eight adults from Aldabra compared with four from Assumption Island agree in the above-mentioned characters. In the type, there is scarcely a trace of white bars on the abdomen, while those on the flanks and thighs are nearly obsolete. Other specimens, however, have these markings well developed, though never so broad and distinct as in *R. gularis*, while in none of them is there even a trace of the blackish streaks on the back, which are very conspicuous in all the birds from Assumption.

5. *Ibis abbotti* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *I. bernieri*, as distinguished from *I. aethiopica* but lower neck naked and minutely papillose; remiges without dark-colored tips (blackish gray in *I. bernieri*, dark metallic green in *I. aethiopica*); decomposed tertials greenish blue on outer, grayish green on inner, webs and iris light blue instead of white.

HAB.—Aldabra Island.

Type, No. 128,812, female ad., Aldabra Island, October 8, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

6. *Sula abbotti* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Most like *S. cyanops*, but bill much more robust, and coloration different, the prevailing color of the wings and tail deep black instead of grayish brown, the wing-feathers (both remiges and coverts) with inner webs and bases largely and abruptly pure white, and the upper tail-coverts and flanks marked with guttate or wedge-shaped spots of black.

Adult male (type, No. 128,761, Assumption Island, Indian Ocean, September 18, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott): Head, neck, back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and entire under parts pure white; scapulars and wing-coverts pure white basally, grayish black terminally, the former mostly concealed, but frequently exposed as angular spots, or streaks, particularly on the lesser and middle wing-coverts; greater coverts with inner webs pure white, except at tip; remiges and primary-coverts black superficially, but inner webs of secondaries chiefly (those of innermost feathers wholly) pure white, and those of the primaries also largely pure white, this color reaching to the shaft on the basal portion of the first quill, which also has the outer web white, and the shaft yellowish white, at base; on the innermost primary the white forms a broad edging which extends nearly to the tip, gradually running out to the edge, but at the base occupying the entire width of the web. Tail deep black, the feathers (except middle pair) sharply tipped with pure white, and broadly edged with the same at the base. Each of the upper tail-coverts has a large wedge-shaped median spot of black, and many of the feathers of

the flanks are similarly marked. "Iris dark brown; feet leaden gray, lower parts of webs black; tip of bill [for about 1 inch] black; [rest of] bill fleshy white; orbital skin black; gular pouch light green." (Abbott, MS.)

Total length (skin), about 28 inches; wing, 18; tail, 8.40, outer feathers 3.20 shorter; culmen, 4.40; depth of bill at base (in front of lores), 1.65, width at same point, 1.22; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 3.50.

This fine species is a little larger than *S. cyanops*, and of similar general appearance, but differs very much both in form and coloration. The bill is much heavier than in that species, for while but little longer it is altogether deeper and broader through the base. The serrations of the tomlia are also much coarser. The tarsus is decidedly shorter but the toes much longer than in *S. cyanops*, and the covering of both legs and feet is far rougher than in that or any other species of the genus. As to coloration, the most conspicuous features are the sharply defined wedged-shaped black markings, on a pure white ground, on the upper tail-coverts and flanks, the extensively white inner webs of the remiges, and the positively black, instead of brown, general color of wings and tail. Wherever the white and black come into juxtaposition there is always a bold line of junction, and in no case a gradual shading together of the two colors.

7. *Turtur saturatus* sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *Taldabranus*, but much darker; the whole back rich purplish chocolate, the head, neck, and chest similar but slightly paler; light-colored tips of rectrices more restricted and more tinged with gray (wholly gray in adult female); adult male with sides of neck distinctly glossed with green.

HAB.—Amirante group (Ile Poivre; Ile Alphonse?).

Type, No. 128,725, male ad., Ile Poivre, August 22, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott.