

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND  
OF MARGARITA, AND AT GUANTA AND LAGUAYRA,  
VENEZUELA.

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By WIRT ROBINSON,

*First Lieutenant, Fourth U. S. Artillery,*

With critical notes and descriptions of new species,

By CHARLES W. RICHMOND.

*Assistant Curator, Department of Birds.*

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I. BIRDS OF THE ISLAND OF MARGARITA, VENEZUELA.

DURING the winter of 1894-1895, in anticipation of a vacation in the following summer, I was casting about in my mind for a suitable locality to visit, when I received a note from Mr. C. W. Richmond, of the U. S. National Museum, calling my attention to a brief notice in the *Ibis* for January, 1895, in which Dr. P. L. Sclater suggested to ornithologists the advisability of turning their attention to the Island of Margarita, off the coast of Venezuela, as a field hitherto unworked. That this suggestion was justified, the results of my visit fully demonstrate.

Margarita can be reached from Laguayra or from Trinidad. Plying fortnightly between these points, and touching at many small intermediate ports, are two little steamers of the Carenero Railway and Navigation Company's line. These leave passengers and mails at Porlamar, the only town of importance on the south shore of the island. Many steamers bound westward from Trinidad touch at Carúpano on the Venezuelan coast, from which port small vessels are constantly crossing to Margarita.

I arrived at Laguayra on June 20, but could not get a steamer to Margarita until the 27th, so spent the week collecting in the vicinity of the town. I found all of the birds molting and in very poor plumage, so after the first two days I confined my attention to butterflies and reptiles, getting some 700 of the former and 40 of the latter.

On the morning of Sunday, June 30, my little steamer anchored about a mile from the beach at Porlamar and I was shortly taken ashore in a small boat, landed at 8 o'clock, secured quarters, and within half an hour was shooting birds in the scrub.

The Island of Margarita lies about midway between Laguayra and

Trinidad, and only some 17 miles distant from the nearest point of the Venezuelan coast. Its greatest length from east to west is 42 miles, and its greatest breadth from north to south  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It consists of two portions connected by a narrow isthmus 12 miles in length; the western being an irregular quadrilateral 12 miles long by 9 miles broad, and the eastern a pentagon some 20 miles across. In the western portion some almost barren peaks rise to a height of 2,300 feet.

Porlamar (formerly Pueblo de la Mar) is on the southern shore of the eastern portion. The adjacent country along the coast and for some three miles back is flat or gently rolling; the vegetation much like that of Curaçao, with small, scrubby, thorn trees, several species of post cacti (*Cereus*), which are now and then laden with a deliciously scented orchid (*Epidendrum*, sp.), thickets of the detestable prickly tuna (*Opuntia tuna*), whose pain-producing thorns are ever ready to enter the flesh, and other irritating plants of the pineapple and nettle families. At points along the beach, shallow salt lagoons occur, which are fringed with a scant growth of mangroves.

About 3 miles inland foothills begin, which rise by leaps to a central peak, 3,240 feet in height. Its summit is constantly enveloped in clouds, whose condensed moisture drips and trickles from every leaf and branch, and collecting, tumbles down its precipitous sides in beautifully limpid streams, abounding in large crayfish. The streams on the southern slope unite and pass seaward down a fertile valley—"El Valle del Espíritu Santo"—by a tortuous channel which enters the sea a short distance east of Porlamar. During the rainy season the water reaches quite to the sea, but at the time of my visit the demands of the "acéquiás," or irrigation ditches, and the thirsty soil of the flat coast region empty the bed several miles back and only a few stagnant pools occur here and there, filled with multitudes of small gasping minnows, much like the little mummichogs of our tide-water brooks.

Porlamar has an excellent supply of water piped from the mountain slopes in rear of El Valle, but at other points on the island water is extremely scarce. Three miles west of Porlamar in a desert of cactus is a solitary water hole, or "posa," a spot which we would designate as "mud puddle," a scant supply of foul-looking water at the bottom of a crater like depression, whose slopes are trodden smooth by the feet of the goats that come for water. To this place during the heat of the day came hordes of doves and pigeons to drink.

By the aid of irrigation, quantities of fruits, plantains, cassava, sugar cane, and corn are raised in El Valle; there are many groves of mangoes and cocoanut palms. The stream is thickly bordered with trees, and the mountain slopes in rear are covered with heavy forests.

The principal occupations of the inhabitants of the interior are the conversion of the sugar cane into rum and the manufacture of pottery and roofing tiles. Those who live near the coast are mainly engaged in fishing, and with nets, seines, and hooks capture an astonishing variety of fish, many being of remarkable shape and brilliant color.

The population of the island, according to the census of 1873, was 31,000, and was increasing, so that it is now estimated at 40,000. I found the inhabitants most kind and hospitable.

Lying between Margarita and the mainland are two small islands, Cubagua and Coche, which for want of water are practically desert.

The mainland, which is in plain sight from Margarita, is a long chain of waterless, barren, and desolate mountains.

I collected in the vicinity of Porlamar during the eight days from June 30 to July 7, then moved to El Valle, where I spent a week, returning to Porlamar on July 15, and leaving the island on the 20th. During the latter part of my stay I was hourly expecting my steamer, so could not go any distance from the town. I lost one day by being lamed by the prick of the thorn of a melon cactus. In sixteen days' collecting I obtained two hundred skins, getting specimens of every land bird that I observed in a state of freedom except the two common vultures and a caracara eagle. A few birds were in good plumage, but the majority were worn, and the humming birds were in full molt when I left.

As would naturally be inferred from the great difference in the character of the vegetation at different parts of the island, the bird life at these points also varied. Thus the gulls, terns, skimmers, cormorants, pelicans, herons, plover, and turnstones were found along the beaches and nowhere else; *Ortalis*, *Amazona*, *Amazilia*, *Chiroziphia*, *Arbelorhina*, *Virco*, and *Platycichla* were confined to the heavy forest region; *Thamnophilus* and *Dendroplex* were found everywhere; *Eupsychortyx*, *Columba*, and *Spocotyto* were found only in the flat coast region; *Columbigallina rufipennis*, *Diplopterus*, *Volatinia*, *Tachyphonus*, and *Tanagra* were found only on the mountain slopes not heavily wooded, and the remaining species were found at all points except in the forests.

In addition to the birds, I secured specimens of a monkey (*Cebus apella*) whose fur emitted a very pleasant musky perfume; a rabbit something like ours, but without the cotton-tail (*Lepus brasiliensis*); a red squirrel, "ardito" (*Sciurus astuans hoffmanni*), a rat (*Mus*), a spiny rat (*Loucheres*), an opossum, "rabo pelado" (*Didelphys murina*), the native name implying skinned or hairless tail; and two small bats (*Vesperugo parvulus* and *Schizostoma megalotes*). A deer occurs and the common mouse and other small mammals.

The literature of Margarita is meager. Dr. A. Ernst<sup>1</sup> gives a partial list of the plants of the island, but this is the only scientific reference to its flora or fauna that I have been able to find. However, all of the few travelers who have written of Margarita refer to its birds. Thus, M. Lavaysse<sup>2</sup> writes:

From Pueblo de la Mar to Pampatar \* \* \* humming birds and the harmonious notes of other tropical birds diverted my attention.

<sup>1</sup>Carácas, 1881, Esbozos de Venezuela.

<sup>2</sup>"A statistical, commercial, and political description of Venezuela, Trinidad, Margarita, and Tobago," London, 1820, p. 146.

Again, Capt. W. J. Adam,<sup>1</sup> in alluding to the portion of his journey from Juan Griego to Forte Norte, says:

As we proceeded, we saw several flocks of a small species of Parrot, called by the natives *Paroquetta*: the bill, wings, and plumage are uniformly gray; they are apt scholars, and quickly taught to imitate the varieties of the human voice. We also saw the bird, from its cry called *Tropyall*, a bird much sought for, about the size of our common thrush; it has a bright yellow top, with breast of the same color, whilst the wings and back exhibit a mixture of white, red, and black; its plumage is highly prized as an ornament by the Indian chiefs on the Mainé. The brilliant colors of the woodpecker frequently arrested our attention, and a numerous list of other kinds which it would be foreign from my present purpose to notice.

Finally, the late Dr. John F. Chittenden,<sup>2</sup> speaking of his ride from Pampatar to Porlamar, says:

But the most interesting feature in my ride was certainly the marvelous collection of birds of every variety and the gayest plumage. I never saw so many together out of an aviary. Troupials, humming birds, and some in full song, the "rossignol" pointed out to me is probably a troglodyte, but to me appeared larger than the "Oiseau de Bon Dien" of Trinidad. The song is most melodious and comprises many different notes, but not equal, of course, to the nightingale of Europe.

At another point he refers to the large flocks of pelicans along the coast.

From these extracts it is seen that before my visit our knowledge of the ornithology of this island was limited to the facts that bird life there was abundant, and that there occurred the pelican, the troupial, and certain undetermined species of parrakeet, woodpecker, humming bird, and mocking bird (the "rossignol" of Dr. Chittenden).

Of the 71 species determined by my observations, 17 are water birds, and include an undescribed form, and 54 are land birds including no less than ten new species.

In addition to the 73 species enumerated below, I observed an undetermined plover, a flock of large waders which at a distance resembled willets, and several species of large herons, but no other land birds. The natives described others to me, but I am unable to identify the birds from their descriptions. The most striking among them was the "ñángaro," a species of parrakeet with a longer beak than *C. aruginosus*. It may possibly be the bird referred to by Captain Adam. It is to be found at the harvest season. Another bird, the "macagua," lives on the mountain slopes, runs on the ground like a partridge, is easily decoyed by imitating its call, and is tailless. It is probably an ant thrush (*Formicarius*) or a tinamou.

The avifauna of Margarita, as far as represented in my collection, is wholly derived from Venezuela. No purely west Indian forms are present. In a very few cases the occurrence of a species in Venezuela

<sup>1</sup>"Journal of Voyages to Marguaritta, Trinidad, and Maturin, 1819, 1820," Dublin, 1824, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup>Port of Spain Gazette, Trinidad, Nov. 4, 1893.

is yet unproven, but its presence in Margarita is considered pretty good evidence of its inhabiting the mainland.

The determination of the species was undertaken by Mr. Richmond, who is therefore responsible for the names used in the following list.

### Family LARIDÆ.

#### 1. LARUS ATRICILLA, Linnæus.

##### LAUGHING GULL.

Native name: "Guanaguanare."

Abundant and not at all shy, approaching within a few feet to pick up the bits of fish tossed to them by the fishermen. My specimen, a female, was strongly tinged with roseate on the breast.

#### 2. PHAËTHUSA MAGNIROSTRIS (Lichtenstein.)

##### LARGE-BILLED TERN.

Only a few were seen along the beaches of Margarita, but at the mouth of the river Manzanares at Cumaná, some 40 miles distant, I saw them in swarms attending the large flocks of brown pelicans in their fishing parties.

#### 3. ? STERNA EURYGNATHA, Saunders.

##### RED-BILLED TERN.

Common along the beaches.

[A single specimen represented in the collection may belong to this species. It is almost identical in color with *acyflaridus*, except that the bill is yellow, with an ill-defined area of blackish about the middle third of both maxilla and mandible. The angle of the mandible is well in front of the anterior part of the nostril, thus opposing Saunders's description. Rump, upper tail-coverts, and upper surface of tail well washed with gray, darker on ends of the tail feathers. The long outer wing quills are replaced by pinfeathers, thus preventing measurement of this part. The specimen appears to be immature. "Beak yellowish, middle third black; legs black; soles of feet yellow." C. W. R.]

#### 4. STERNA ANTILLARUM (Lesson).

##### LEAST TERN.

Abundant, and probably with young in July, as whenever I approached the sandy flats that they affected particularly, they hovered around me screeching incessantly until I withdrew.



## Family RHYNCHOPIDÆ.

## 5. RYNCHOPS NIGRA, Linnæus.

## BLACK SKIMMER.

Not until the day before my departure from Margarita did I observe this skimmer. I was strolling along the beach after dark on a very quiet evening when not a breath of air was stirring, and the little swell pulsing on the ocean caused no more than a thin, silvery sheet of water to now and then glide over the smooth sand and steal back as quietly as it had come. As I turned at one spot to glance back, I became aware of a large bird flitting by so close that I could distinctly hear the swish of its wings. In a few seconds another passed, and stooping down so as to bring it in relief against the horizon, I easily recognized it. The next day I saw others. They fly with their wings held high above their bodies, and prefer to skim over this thin sheet of water that is thrown over the sands by the waves as they break. They leave a distinct ripple in their wake.

## Family PHALACROCORACIDÆ.

## 6. PHALACROCORAX, sp.

## CORMORANT.

Native name "cotúa."

This small, dark, and glossy cormorant was fairly abundant along the beaches of Margarita, but no specimens were secured.

## Family PELECANIDÆ.

## 7. PELECANUS FUSCUS, Linnæus.

## BROWN PELICAN.

Native name "alcatraz."

Abundant at Margarita and along the neighboring coast of the mainland, fishing at times in parties of hundreds. At Margarita they always assembled as the fishermen drew their nets, and as the net was gradually pursed, a steady stream of pelicans could be seen plunging headlong from the air into the water, rising and plunging again.

## Family FREGATIDÆ.

## 8. FREGATA AQUILA (Linnæus.)

## MAN-O'-WAR BIRD.

Native name "tijereta," i. e., scissor-tail.

Common along the beaches, the piebald young and the darker adults fishing together. Though fishing from on wing, I did not see any plunge into the water like the pelicans, but swooping over the spot they struck

downward with their beaks as they passed, making a sound like that produced by an arrow shot into water. They invariably rose after catching the fish, and, tossing it up, dexterously adjusted it before swallowing it. I daily saw them associated with black vultures soaring at a great height over the cactus thickets west of Porlamar.

Family ANATIDÆ.

9. DENDROCYGNA, sp.

TREE DUCK.

In the lagoon at the southeast extremity of the island, I saw a flock of a half dozen tree ducks, but I was unable to approach within range. They flew off toward the mainland.

Family ARDEIDÆ.

10. GARZETTA CANDIDISSIMA (Gmelin).

SNOWY HERON.

The native name for all species of herons is "garza."

In the lagoon to the east of Porlamar, I saw herons of several kinds, but obtained only this and the following. I saw other snowy herons along the stagnant pools in the bed of the stream running down from El Valle.

11. BUTORIDES ROBINSONI, new species.

MARGARITAN GREEN HERON.

Although I saw several pairs of these herons among the dead mangroves along the shores of the lagoon, I shot but one specimen, as I thought it was the same as our *B. virescens*.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151635, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, July 7, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 446. Cap and lengthened occipital feathers glossy bottle green, some of the feathers washed with slate; sides and back of neck slaty drab, tinged with fawn color, deeper on back of neck; ear-coverts same, mixed with cinnamon; throat buffy white, with a row of black spots on each side of the median line; sides of throat and cheeks edged with pale cinnamon; fore neck on median line (narrowly) buffy white, heavily streaked with cinnamon and darker brown, and washed with fawn color; back, rump, upper tail-coverts, tail (upper surface), and scapular plumes, mostly glossy light bottle green, strongly washed with pale slate, some of the feathers entirely without greenish tinge; the scapular plumes with pale linear shaft streaks; primaries and secondaries slaty gray; tertiaries glossy light bottle green; most of the tertiaries and first primary narrowly edged on outer webs with whitish; wing-coverts glossy light bottle green, and (except primary coverts) more or less broadly bordered with buff,

darker on lesser and middle coverts; breast and sides of body smoke gray; abdomen and under tail coverts light buffy gray; thighs wood brown. Under surface of wings and tail light slaty gray, lighter on axillaries and under wing-coverts, outer border of the latter mixed with pale cinnamon; border of wings buffy white, mixed with pale cinnamon; "irides yellowish red; feet orange." Wing, 6.13; tail, 2.18; tarsus, 1.78; culmen, 2.35 inches. This species appears to be closely related to *B. striata* of South America, but is considerably smaller, and the color of the fore and hind neck and edge of wing approach *B. virescens*.—C. W. R.]

Family SCOLOPACIDÆ.

12. EREUNETES OCCIDENTALIS, Lawrence.

WESTERN SANDPIPER.

13. CALIDRIS ARENARIA (Linnæus).

SANDERLING.

Along the shores of the lagoon east of Porlamar there were many flocks of small sandpipers and plovers, and, on July 7, at one shot, I obtained the two above, two species of plover, and a turnstone.

Family ŒDICNEMIDÆ.

14. ŒDICNEMUS BISTRIATUS (Wagler).

AMERICAN THICK-KNEE.

Native name "guara." In a courtyard of a dwelling in Porlamar, I saw several pairs of these birds, and their owner told me that he had caught them when not fully fledged in the wide savanna to the west of the town. Their eyes are most brilliant yellow, like those of an owl.

Family CHARADRIIDÆ.

15. ÆGIALITIS WILSONIA RUFINUCHA, Ridgway.

RUFOUS-NAPED PLOVER.

Legs grayish pink.

[A male in the collection has the pectoral band of the usual width; brown, mixed with black.—C. W. R.]

16. ÆGIALITIS SEMIPALMATA, Bonaparte.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.

One shot July 7. Legs clay color, base of beak orange.

17. ÆGIALITIS NIVOSA, Cassin.

SNOWY PLOVER.

A specimen obtained July 2. Legs grayish blue.



18 *ÆGIALITIS COLLARIS*, Vieillot.

## AZARA'S RING PLOVER.

The native name for these plovers is "tigiii-tigiii," from their notes.

They were all common along the beaches. I saw still another species with darker breast, but did not succeed in getting a specimen. Legs flesh.

## Family APHRIZIDÆ.

19. *ARENARIA INTERPRES*, (Linnæus).

## TURNSTONE.

A specimen obtained July 7. Several large flocks seen at the lagoon.

## Family TETRAONIDÆ.

20. *EUPSYCHORTYX PALLIDUS*, new species.

## MARGARITAN CRESTED QUAIL.

These handsome birds were abundant in the thorny thickets near the coast, but none were seen in the interior of the island. They ran through the cactus undergrowth with incredible swiftness and it was a difficult matter to cause them to take wing. The call of the males is identical with that of our common bob-white, and the call of the scattered members of a covey is also the same. The native name is "perdiz."

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151636, U.S.N.M; Margarita, July 2, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 384. This bird is closely related to *E. soumini* of Venezuela, and does not require a separate description. The Margaritan birds are considerably paler than *E. soumini*, except on the throat, where the color is about the same. The females are particularly pallid on the under parts. There is no difference in the pattern of coloration of the head in the male between the island bird and *E. soumini*. The dimensions appear to be the same in both forms, the type of the present bird measuring: Wing, 3.75; tail, 2.30; tarsus, 1.05; exposed culmen, 0.50 inches. The material upon which this form is based, and that of *E. soumini* available for comparison, is very scanty, consisting of three specimens of the former, and a male from the island of St. Thomas<sup>1</sup> and a female from Venezuela of the latter. Meager as this is, it is considered desirable to separate the two forms on the evidence presented, and on the fact that at least two other species (*Doleromya* and *Spectotyto*) characteristic of the cactus thickets are pale representatives of mainland birds. Temminck's and Gould's plates of *E. soumini* also show a darker bird than *E. pallidus*.—C. W. R.]

<sup>1</sup>American Museum of Natural History collection. I have to thank Messrs. J. A. Allen and Frank M. Chapman of that institution for numerous specimens from Venezuela and Trinidad sent on at my request for comparison with birds collected by Lieutenant Robinson.

## Family CRACIDÆ.

## 21. ?ORTALIS RUFICAUDA, Jardine.

## CHACHALACA.

Native name, "guacharaca."

They are found sparingly in the mountains around El Valle, but although I made three separate trips after them, accompanied each time by an experienced hunter, I got none, and only once did I even hear their notes. The identification is from my description of a specimen in captivity.

## Family COLUMBIDÆ.

## 22. COLUMBA GYMNOPHTHALMA, Temminck.

## BARE-FACED PIGEON.

Native name, "paloma."

Found sparingly in the savanna to the west of Porlamar. I was told that at other seasons they were abundant. The two specimens that I obtained were badly soiled about the foreheads by the juice of the fruit of the post cactus. One, a young female, was without the granulated ring around the orbit.

[The adult female in the collection lacks the "reddish opaline" and blackish bands of the male on the hind neck; the bands or bars in this specimen are similar to those on the sides of neck, but with the blackish bars replaced by dusky brownish ones. This difference is a sexual one, then, and not due to immaturity, as thought by Mr. Hartert. The immature female has these bands on sides and back of neck only slightly indicated, and the breast and abdomen are tinged with brown; the ring of papille round the eye is absent, but there is an indication of a difference in structure between this ring and the inner one. Lieutenant Robinson obtained a male on Curaçao during his former visit to South America, and Mr. Hartert also met with it on the same island. The U. S. National Museum possesses an adult male from the island of St. Thomas, collected by A. D. Armes about the year 1873. This will add another species to the avifauna of St. Thomas, and also one common to that island and Curaçao. From the fact of its inhabiting Margarita (whose avifauna seems to be exclusively derived from the mainland), it is quite probable that Herr Peter's statement<sup>1</sup> that it occurs on the coast of Venezuela is correct.—C. W. R.]

## 23. ZENAIDA VINACEO-RUFA, Ridgway.

## VINACEOUS DOVE.

Native name "guaramec."

Common near the seashore. I killed five at one shot at the water hole west of Porlamar. Irides brown.

[These specimens are typical of this form.—C. W. R.]

<sup>1</sup> Jour. für Orn., Jan., 1892, p. 112.

## 24. LEPTOTILA INSULARIS, new species.

## MARGARITAN DOVE.

Native name "pipi."

Irides yellowish, skin around eyes deep blue, beak black, feet reddish pink. Fairly common and very good eating. I saw "pipis" on the mainland at Laguayra and at Guanta, but did not get any specimens for comparison with this island form.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151639, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, July 6, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 437. Back, rump, upper tail-coverts, central tail feathers, tertiaries, and wing-coverts, grayish olive; primaries and secondaries (especially at tips), blackish brown, the former (except first) with more or less narrow whitish edges; tail feathers black, four outer pairs tipped with white, narrowly on the inner one, but increasing toward the outer pair, on which the white tip is one-half inch broad; outer web of outer tail feather narrowly edged with white for its exposed portion: outer webs of outer tail feathers, except last, mostly grayish olive. Forehead, lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, and lower throat, ecru-drab, passing into pale vinaceous on breast and sides of neck, and becoming lighter again on lower breast: chin and center of throat white; center of crown distinctly French gray, passing posteriorly into dull plumbeous mixed with vinaceous on hind neck, the feathers on sides of occiput, hind neck, and slightly on sides of neck rather sparingly glossed with purple, and on lower part of hind neck with green. Center of abdomen and under tail-coverts white: sides of body brownish buff, darker on flanks; axillaries, under wing-coverts, and most of under side of primaries, chestnut; first primary only narrowly edged with chestnut on inner web. Wing, 5.07; tail, 4; tarsus, 1.01; exposed culmen, 0.66 inches. This specimen is the only one of the four represented in the series in which the center of the crown is of a pronounced grayish color, but the others have a trace of it, somewhat masked by the vinaceous tinge of the surrounding parts. The other specimens have the inner web of the first primary mostly chestnut, instead of a narrow edging as in the type. This species is closely related to *L. verreauxi*, but is smaller, grayer above, with metallic colors on hind neck, occiput, and sides of neck less pronounced. Trinidad and Tobago birds resemble the Margarita form in size, but the colors are more like true *L. verreauxi*. Three other specimens of *L. insularis* measure: Male adult, wing, 5.25; tail, 4.15; tarsus, 1.07; culmen, 0.68 inches. Female adult, wing, 5.27; tail, 4.08; tarsus, 1.07; culmen, 0.67 inches. Female adult, wing, 5.23; tail, 4.10; tarsus, 1; culmen, 0.64 inches.—C. W. R.]

## 25. COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA (Linnæus).

## GROUND DOVE.

Native name "tórtola."

Extremely abundant in all parts of the island.

[The Margarita birds belong to a small pale form, but whether *C. bahamensis*, Maynard, or *C. perpallida*, Hartert, or something still different,

I can not now determine. There are two males in the collection from Margarita; one has red at the base of the bill, the other yellow; the red-billed one has dark under tail-coverts, while those in the yellow-billed one are lighter. An adult male from Curaçao collected on this trip is similar to the yellow-billed Margarita bird, but the bill is somewhat brighter yellow.—C. W. R.]

26. COLUMBIGALLINA RUFIPENNIS (Bonaparte).

RUFIOUS GROUND DOVE.

Native name "tórtola de monte."

I saw in all about a dozen individuals and these were associated with flocks of the preceding species in the fields on the mountain slopes in rear of El Valle.

[Examples of this species from Margarita do not differ from those from other localities.—C. W. R.]

27. SCARDAFELLA RIDGWAYI, new species.

RIDGWAY'S SCALED DOVE.

Native name "potoco," from its note of three syllables.

Without doubt this was the most abundant bird on the island and was found in all parts. They came to the water holes in swarms and I once secured nine at a shot. Like other doves, they strike their wings rapidly upon rising, but instead of giving out a whistling sound the noise is a rattle like that of dry seeds shaken in a gourd. Beak dark, irides red, feet flesh. At Guanta I saw great numbers of scaled doves with the same note as these, but got none for comparison.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151644, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, June 30, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 362. Upper parts (except forehead, forecrown, wing-coverts, and primaries), including middle pair of rectrices, brown—between broccoli and hair brown, the feathers all tipped with dull greenish or bluish black, narrowest on nape and hind crown; primaries brownish black externally, dark hazel on inner webs and at base of outer webs, appearing on exposed portion of wing as a small, irregular spot, just beyond primary coverts; secondaries, dark brownish black, narrowly edged with white on the outer web; feathers of wing-coverts mainly white on outer web, brown on inner web, and broadly tipped with black; primary coverts and alula, dull black; forehead, forecrown, superciliary line, and sides of head, pale pinkish white, lighter on lores and ear-coverts, the feathers mostly narrowly edged with black; throat white, passing into pale vinaceous on breast, sides of breast, and sides of neck, the feathers on breast with faint indications of black edges, more pronounced on lower part and on sides, remainder of under parts white, with a wash of pale fawn color on sides, all the feathers edged with white, these edges broadest on lower breast and sides of body. Five outer pairs of rectrices black basally, the terminal part white; on the outer feather the white occupies about 1.60 inches; this decreases by "steps" to the fifth, which has only a slight

mottling of white at the end. Under wing-coverts externally chestnut, the feathers with black tips, the inner part wholly black; axillaries, black. Wing, 3.82; tail, 3.90; tarsus, 0.68; exposed culmen, 0.60 inches. This species differs from *S. squamosa* mainly in its longer bill and in the broader black edgings to the feathers, which in the new species are about twice as wide as those of *S. squamosa*. The vinaceous color is a little deeper in the former, but this may be due to the fresh condition of the specimens. The single specimen in the National Museum collection from the mainland of Venezuela, examined in this connection, is similar to the Margarita bird, but the bill is short as in the Brazilian specimens of *S. squamosa*.

I take great pleasure in naming this species for Mr. Ridgway, who first pointed out the difference between the Brazilian and Venezuelan birds twenty-two years ago.<sup>1</sup>—C. W. R.]

### Family CATHARTIDÆ.

#### 28. CATHARTES AURA (Linnæus).

##### TURKEY VULTURE.

Native name "olaya."

Common, but not so much so as the following species:

#### 29. CATHARISTA ATRATA (Bartram).

##### BLACK VULTURE.

Native names "zamurro" and "guaraguao," the latter being the Indian name.

Abundant everywhere.

### Family FALCONIDÆ.

#### 30. BUTEO ALBICAUDATUS, Vieillot.

##### WHITE-TAILED BUZZARD.

Native name "gavilán."

I saw probably a dozen individuals, and obtained one specimen, a young bird. Its cere was blue, irides brown, and feet yellow, and its stomach contained portions of a snake. The natives told me that this hawk destroys much poultry.

#### 31. FALCO SPARVERIUS, Linnæus.

##### SPARROW HAWK.

Native name "rapíña."

Abundant. Their principal food is a large green grasshopper (*Tropidacris*, sp.), which the natives call "naragangato," and which is very common in the scrub along the coast. These insects have the under

<sup>1</sup> Hist. N. A. Birds, III, p. 387.



wings of a bluish tinge and the bodies marked with red and green, and some are as much as 8 inches in expanse. They are also eaten by the several small owls that are found on the island. One sparrow hawk had eaten a lizard in addition to several grasshoppers.

[Four specimens, two males and two females, are represented in the collection. The males can be very closely matched with a specimen from Gainesville, Florida, both in color and size. They are almost uniform in color below, one only has a few spots on the lower sides; the backs are uniform, with a few black bars on the longer scapulars; the crown is uniform gray in one, with a small chestnut patch in the other. The specimens are larger than examples of *F. brevipennis* from Curaçao. The wings measure: Males, 6.80 and 6.75; females, 7.20 and 7.12 inches. Tails measure: Males, 4.75; females, 4.70 and 5.25 inches.—C. W. R.]

### 32. POLYBORUS CHERIWAY (Jacquinot).

#### AUDUBON'S CARACARA.

Native name "caracara."

I saw a few of these birds flying about to the west of Porlamar, but did not succeed in getting a specimen.

#### Family BUBONIDÆ.

### 33. MEGASCOPS BRASILIANUS (Gmelin).

#### BRAZILIAN SCREECH OWL.

Native name "chaure."

I obtained one specimen in the scrub west of Porlamar. Seeing a small but very thickly foliaged tree and thinking that it was a likely hiding place for an owl, I threw a stone into it, when this specimen darted out on the opposite side and was quickly lost to sight in the thorny jungle. Following after, I hunted for it for some time and was despairing of finding it, when I heard the scolding notes of some mocking birds near by and made toward them. Just as I had located the particular clump of cactus and thorn trees in which they were, they flew off, and I was again on the point of giving up my search, when I heard the angry buzzing and squeaking of a buff-breasted humming bird (*Doleromyia pallida*), and soon detected the owl perched near the ground and the little hummer flying almost into its face.

This owl had a thorn of the tuna through the nictitating membrane of one eye. These thorns are a curse to the living creatures of the island; man and the domestic animals suffer from them; I shot a rabbit with the thorns deep in its flesh; I found them in all of the pigeons and doves, in the burrowing owls, entirely through the wings of a partridge, and dozens in the legs of every large iguana that I caught. Whilst careless of them at first, I grew to dread them more and more the longer I stayed, and finally shrunk from them with horror.

## 31. SPEOTYTO BRACHYPTERA, new species.

## SHORT-WINGED BURROWING OWL.

Native name "moriquite."

The level land to the east of Porlamar is more sandy than that to the west, and the vegetation is, in consequence, scantier. There are here and there open patches of several acres in extent covered with a sparse faded yellowish grass and dotted with melon cactus (*Melocactus communis*). In these spots I was certain to find little colonies of burrowing owls living in burrows that had been made either by a land tortoise somewhat like the Florida gopher or by a rabbit. Their color harmonizes with that of the grass, and, standing erect and motionless among the cactus melons, they are easily overlooked unless approached so close that they fly a short distance or slink off like a cat. When they have thus revealed their presence, they perform various bows and nods toward their disturber, uttering at the same time a low tremulous note a little like some of the notes of our screech owl. Among my specimens was one young bird in immature plumage. The stomachs of all contained grasshoppers and fragments of beetles. I saw none at all among the hills.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151660, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, June 30, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 365. Similar to *S. cucularia*, but paler and very much smaller; the tarsi feathered only about halfway, with straggling hairs continued down on the toes; brown bars on under parts much paler and narrower; rump and upper tail-coverts uniform pale cinnamon, without spots or bars; under tail-coverts uniform buffy white; under wing-coverts and axillaries immaculate buff; middle rectrices with five light bars; three innermost bars on outer web of first primary are connected. "Irides yellow." Wing, 5.48; tail, 2.41; tarsus, 1.70; exposed culmen (without cere), 0.52 inches. Two other adult males measure: Wing, 5.80 and 5.82; tail, 2.55 and 2.40; tarsi, 1.77 and 1.80 inches, respectively. An adult female measures: Wing, 5.90; tail, 2.54; tarsus, 1.63; exposed culmen (without cere), 0.57 inches. The various forms of *Speotyto*, described from the West Indies, Bahamas, and Florida, appear to have the under wing-coverts mottled or spotted, while the true *S. cucularia*, *hypogaea*, *rostrata*, and the present form have them uniform buff. In examining a large series of the first two, I find an occasional specimen with indications of mottled under wing-coverts; but this character is very exceptional. The forms nearest in size to the Margarita bird are the *S. mauva* and *guadeloupensis* of the West Indies; but they are both very dark birds, and at once distinguishable without regard to size.—C. W. R.]

## 35. GLAUCIDIUM PHALÆNOIDES (Daudin).

## FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL.

Native name "lechuzá."

Irides, cere, beak, and feet yellow. I tried repeatedly to attract birds in Margarita by making that "screeching" noise which is so effective

with us at certain seasons, but I met with success only once, and then in a deeply shaded spot along the bed of the stream from El Valle, when at the first note one of these little owls dashed up, evidently expecting to find something upon which to prey. I believe that these owls hunt by day, as the sun caused them no apparent discomfort. I found the three others that I obtained by being attracted by the scolding notes of mocking birds. They are subject to dichromatism, as three were in the red plumage and one in the gray. The barring of the tail of the gray one was quite different from that of the others. These owls have a pair of marks at the back of the neck which in life and at a little distance look like a pair of half closed eyes, so that at first I was not certain whether they were looking toward me or from me. These marks are almost entirely hidden in a made-up skin.

### Family PSITTACIDÆ.

#### 36. CONURUS ÆRUGINOSUS (Linnæus).

##### RUSTY PARRAKEET.

Native name "perico."

Abundant, being found in large flocks in the flat coast region and in the cultivated hills around El Valle. I was told that they could be taught to talk. Those that I obtained were in rather worn plumage.

[Not different from mainland birds.—C. W. R.]

#### 37. AMAZONA AMAZONICA (Linnæus).

##### AMAZONIAN PARROT.

Native names "loro" and "cotorra."

I saw many large flocks in the heavy forests in rear of El Valle. There is in these forests a parasite which, starting from an insignificant seed dropped upon a branch by some bird, lets down fine cord-like roots, which, descending for 50 or 60 feet, reach the earth, and obtaining a foothold there rapidly increase until the parent tree is choked and destroyed, and the parasite alone remains, one of the loftiest trees in the forest. Its leaves are large, pear-shaped, and glossy like those of our magnolia, its blossoms white, and wide open like a wild rose; the fruit, smooth and the size of a peach, opens like a chestnut burr, but in eight segments, disclosing in the interior a fleshy pyramid with longitudinal slits filled with rice-like seed, red and pulpy. It is called by the natives "copeny," and is probably *Clusia rosea*.

From its peculiar manner of propagation, it is evident that the seeds must be attractive to birds, and so I found them. For several mornings I took my stand before daybreak under a very large one near El Valle, and at the first sign of dawn the tree top burst into life, and positively swarmed with birds. Three flycatchers, three tanagers, a grackle, two orioles, and a vireo took part in the feast; the beautiful azure-crowned honey creeper came literally by hundreds and poised, like a humming

bird, with rapid vibrating wings, beneath the open fruit, by means of its long beak extracted the seeds from the depths of the cavities. The parrots, too heavy for such work and with beaks too thick to enter the cavities, hung head downward on the fruit and tore its thick and gummy outer rind into fragments to get at the coveted interior. When a flock of parrots was at work in a copey, the bits of rind fell like a shower. The juice of the rind hardens on their beaks and plumage like india rubber, and I found it impossible to remove it with water, although spirits of turpentine dissolved it freely. One of my parrots, a female, had the tips of all of her tail feathers so badly worn that I thought at first that I had shot an escaped cage bird, but I was told that they nest in hollow trees and that their tails are worn by the smallness of the hollows.

[The specimens collected by Lieutenant Robinson are typical of *A. amazonica*.—C. W. R.]

### Family CUCULIDÆ.

#### 38. CROTOPHAGA ANI, Linnæus.

##### ANI.

Native name "garrapatero," i. e., tick eater, from its alleged habit of eating the "garrapatos," or ticks, from the backs of cattle.

Common and usually in small parties of from six to a dozen individuals. Found in open land, and often seen walking about among cattle like our cow bird. I am inclined to believe that these birds not only associate in communities, but have a nest in common. Upon arriving at Lagnayra, I discovered one of their nests, a bulky structure of coarse twigs, in a cocoanut palm near the town. I made no attempt to get it, but on the night of June 25 there was a high wind, and, going out the next morning, I found that the nest had blown down. It had fallen in rank grass, and all of the eggs were not broken. It had contained 15 fresh eggs, of which nine were uninjured.

#### 39. DIPLOPTERUS NÆVIUS (Linnæus).

##### TAWNY CUCKOO.

Native name "sentín."

I saw several pairs of these birds in the small thickets on the partly bare hillsides near El Valle, and obtained one specimen.

### Family BUCCONIDÆ.

#### 40. BUCCO BICINCTUS (Gould).

##### TWO-BANDED PUFF-BIRD.

Common, especially in the fringe of trees along the stream from El Valle. They are very quiet birds, and will sit motionless whilst they are observed from a distance of a few feet. They have a note a little



like our flickers, and begin slowly on a low key and run up crescendo, increasing the rapidity and pitch of the note. They nest in a hole constructed in the large nests of the white-bodied and chestnut-headed wood lice which are common in the trees along the stream.

[A pair in the collection hardly differ from a specimen from Venezuela, but are very slightly paler on the throat.—C. W. R.]

### Family PICIDÆ.

#### 41. MELANERPES SUBELEGANS (Bonaparte).

##### BONAPARTE'S WOODPECKER.

Native name "earpintero."

Abundant. Their nests near El Valle were usually constructed in cocoa palms. On July 9 at El Valle a child brought in to me a young bird barely able to fly.

[The proper name for the present bird is without doubt *M. subelegans* of Bonaparte, although some ornithologists, principally the English, have for a long time relegated this name to the synonymy of *Melanerpes aurifrons* (Wagler), probably following Selater, who seems to have been the first to make the mistake.

This form was first described by Bonaparte<sup>1</sup> under the name *Centurus subelegans*. He compared his bird with the *C. elegans* of Swainson, and gave the locality as "Mexico." In 1850, in his "Conspectus," he again described it in almost the same words, but corrected the locality to "Venezuela." Here he quoted as references his original description and "*tricolor!* Gr. 1849, *ex* Wagl. 1829." In the first description he neglected to mention the color of the abdomen, but did so in the second, giving it as red. In describing *C. subelegans* he writes, "fronte et cervice subauratis," and in a comparison which follows says it "resembles Mr. Swainson's *Centurus elegans*, but is well distinguished by wanting the very conspicuous black superciliary spot and by the much less brilliant gold color of the crown." This agrees very well in the main with the bird now under consideration, but *M. aurifrons* (Wagler), with which this description is made to fit by those who reject the name *subelegans*, is a much larger bird, and with the golden color of the nape fully as brilliant, if not even more so. It has a yellow belly, while *subelegans* (as shown in his second description) has a red belly. If he had been comparing *M. aurifrons* with *M. elegans* in the original description of *C. subelegans*, he would probably have mentioned the great difference in size, as he did in comparing his *C. santa-eruzi* with *P. aurifrons* [= *rubriventris*] a few pages over in the same paper.<sup>2</sup>

Now, there is a discrepancy in his description of *subelegans*, when applied to the present bird, for he says "fronte et cervice subauratis;" the bird long known as *C. tricolor* has the forehead yellow, but the nape

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1837, 109.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc., 1837, p. 116.



is red, paler than the crown, and separated from it. In some specimens, as in the Margarita example in worn plumage, this red nape is considerably worn and faded, and has a distinct golden hue, with only a slight tint of red remaining. Could not Bonaparte have based his description on a similar specimen? At any rate, red or yellow, the nape is never as broad or brilliant as in *elegans*.

Here is Bonaparte's second description, the words in brackets being those not found in the original one:

[*Minor*], *albo-nigroque fasciatus: subtus, cum capite, dilute cinerascens: vertice [abdominisque medio] rubris: fronte et cervice subauratis: [macula oculo nigra nulla]*.

The words "minor" and "macula oculo nigra nulla" are comparative with *C. elegans* immediately preceding this description: the "abdominisque medio" [rubris] refers to the color of the abdomen, lacking in the original description. Now this does *not* refer to *M. aurifrons*, and the objection to Bonaparte's name appears to rest on this point.

The specific name *tricolor* has very commonly been used to designate the birds ranging from the Isthmus through Colombia and Venezuela. This name was first used by Gmelin, whose *Picus tricolor*, said to inhabit Mexico, is considered unrecognizable. Later, Wagler described in detail a bird in the Berlin Museum as *Picus tricolor*,<sup>1</sup> thought to be from Mexico, but since shown by Cabanis to have come from Cartagena, Colombia.

Recently Salvin and Godman<sup>2</sup> have very properly discarded the name *tricolor* of Wagler for the bird inhabiting the Isthmus and applied a new name, *wagleri*, in its stead. Von Berlepsch described *Centurus terricolor*<sup>3</sup> from the "Orinoco district or Trinidad" some years ago, and compared his bird with Bogota specimens, which were thought to be *tricolor*. The former was said to differ from *tricolor* in being larger, with longer bill, darker on head and under parts, and in barred upper tail-coverts. Now, if Orinoco or Venezuelan examples are compared with Panama specimens, which are the same as the Cartagena form, we shall have to describe them as *smaller* instead of *larger* than "*tricolor*!"

In other words, we have three forms—one, *wagleri*, from Chiriqui, Panama, and along the coast of Colombia; second, a smaller form in Venezuela, including Tobago, the Orinoco region, and probably Trinidad; and finally a still smaller form from Bogota, which appears to be unnamed, and may be called *neglectus*. The second form mentioned is the one called *terricolor* by Von Berlepsch, but is really the *subelegans* of Bonaparte, and this latter name should be employed in its place.

The characters given in the books to separate *wagleri* from *subelegans* are not very satisfactory. I can not find any difference in the color of the under parts (but should state that I have seen no males of *neglectus*), and the barring of the upper tail-coverts and rump are very uncertain and occur in both forms more or less. There is a difference in size,

<sup>1</sup> Isis, 1829, 512.

<sup>2</sup> Biol. Cent. Am., Aves, II, 1895, 416.

<sup>3</sup> Ibis, 1880, 113.

especially in length of wing, which will aid in distinguishing them; the size of the bill is, however, about the same in both forms. The best character I can find is in the extent of the red crown, which is continuous with the nape in *wagleri*, but separated from it in *subelegans*, although this may prove of no value when a large series shall have been examined. What the difference on this point is between *neglectus* and the two just mentioned I am unable to say.

In view of the above facts I would follow Dr. Allen<sup>1</sup> in restoring Bonaparte's name *subelegans* for the Venezuelan form and the three birds will then stand:

*Melanerpes subelegans* (BONAPARTE). Venezuela; Tobago.

*Melanerpes subelegans wagleri* (SALVIN and GODMAN). Chiriqui, Panama, coast region of Colombia.

*Melanerpes subelegans neglectus*, RICHMOND. Bogota.

As type of this last, I will designate No. 47081, U.S.N.M. female adult; "Bogota;" Hon. A. A. Burton. Wing, 3.96; tail, 1.85; tarsus, 0.70; exposed culmen, 0.72 inches.—C. W. R.]

#### Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

##### 42. CHORDEILES ACUTIPENNIS (Boddaert).

###### SOUTH AMERICAN NIGHT HAWK.

Native name "agnaita camino," i. e., road watcher, from its habit of flitting along the road at dusk and lighting in front of the traveler.

I flushed a few in rambling through the scrub near Porlamar, but secured only one. At El Valle I saw them flying overhead at early dawn, and they then looked exactly like our night hawk.

#### Family MICROPODIDÆ.

##### 43. CHÆTURA CINEREIVENTRIS LAWRENCEI, Ridgway.

###### LAWRENCE'S SWIFT.

Abundant at El Valle shortly after daybreak, and again at sundown. One specimen secured.

[This specimen is quite like the type, but the wing is a bit shorter.—C. W. R.]

#### Family TROCHILIDÆ.

##### 44. DOLEROMYA PALLIDA, Richmond.

###### BUFF-BREASTED HUMMING BIRD.

*Doleromya pallida*, RICHMOND, Auk, XII, October, 1895, p. 369.

The characteristic feature of the vegetation of the flat coast region of Margarita is the post cactus, the "cardón" of the natives, of which several species occur. These upright, spiny posts would appear to the stranger as productive of nothing that would sustain life, but such is not the case.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, 1892, 55.

One species in particular (*Cereus swartzii*, Grisebach) bears at uncertain points along its columnar stem globular fruit, some of which are as large as small peaches. When green, they are hard and so thickly beset with needle-like spines that they can not be picked up even when broken off and lying on the ground. But as they ripen, their color turns from green to dark red, the spines separate and fall off in little clumps, the skin of the fruit cracks like an overripe fig, drops of nectar begin to trickle forth, and are at once detected by the buff-breasted humming bird, who hastens to make a delicious meal. But other keen eyes are also on a lookout for the treat, and very soon the big troupial tears his way into the sweet pulp, the mocking bird, yellow oriole, grassquit, and black and yellow honey creeper take what he leaves, and the empty shell withers in the sun and falls to the earth. In a few days I learned that the birds were better judges of fruit than I, and whenever I saw a buff-breasted hummer poised before the fruit of a cardón, I at once knocked it down with my gun barrel and proceeded to enjoy it. When ripe, the outer skin is easily separated from the pulp, which is dark red and glutinous, thickly filled with small, black, seeds like grains of powder. The flavor is delicious, somewhat like strawberry with the acidity removed. The buff-breasted hummers eat not only the juice but also the flesh of this fruit, and this, with the little tuberosé-shaped, wax-like, coral-red flowers of the melon cactus and the larger flowers of the tuna and cardones, constitute their food supply. They are not found where these do not occur in abundance, and they are therefore strictly limited to the coast region of Margarita.

On the second day after my arrival at Margarita I was hunting in the scrub when I heard the notes of a bird singing near at hand. I at first thought that it was the gnat-catcher, which was common thereabouts, but as it struck me that the song was louder than a gnat catcher's, I walked up quietly, and to my surprise discovered that it emanated from a humming bird. It is a great mistake to think that humming birds can not or do not sing. The *Amazilia alicia* has a well-marked and strong song of three notes, repeated a varying number of times, and the little *Chlorostilbon caribbaea* has a more varied though much weaker song, but the buff-breasted hummer is a nightingale compared to them. In singing they perch upon some prominent twig and elevate their beaks. The notes can be heard at a distance, and I quickly found that the easiest way to get specimens was to wait until one was heard singing and then go at once to the spot. In this way I secured some twenty, and could easily have gotten many more. As among the lot only two were females, I think that the males alone sing. On July 20 I found a nest with two eggs, incubated for a few days. It was saddled upon the branch of a small nettle bush only 2 feet from the ground, and was covered with lichens. The female sat with her tail high in the air and her wings beneath her tail. She was so fearless that she suffered me to photograph her on the nest, and afterwards lift her off with my hand, when she immediately returned to the eggs.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151069, U.S.N.M.; Margarita Island, July 5, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 432. Similar to *D. fallax*, but much paler below, where pale buffy fulvous; metallic green of upper parts less brilliant and less brassy; size the same. Upper mandible and tip of lower, black; lower mandible flesh color. Wing, 2.41; tail (central feathers), 1.40; exposed culmen, 0.82 inches.

Female adult, No. 151070, U.S.N.M.; Margarita Island, July 4, 1895; same collector (No. 409). Does not differ from the male. Wing, 2.28; tail (central feathers), 1.34; exposed culmen, 0.85 inches.

Lieutenant Robinson collected over twenty specimens of this species, which I have compared with three specimens of *D. fallax* belonging to the American Museum of Natural History and kindly loaned for that purpose by Dr. J. A. Allen. They are uniformly paler than the three examples of *D. fallax*, and all, without exception, have pale flesh-colored lower mandibles, while those of *D. fallax* are apparently yellow when fresh. At any rate, the American Museum specimens have the appearance of having had yellow lower mandibles in life. There does not appear to be any appreciable variation in the amount of white on the outer tail feathers in *D. pallida*, and the area occupied by white on these feathers is the same in both species.

In both forms the feathers of the under parts are edged with buff, the less exposed part of the feathers being different shades of fulvous (light in *D. pallida* and darker in *fallax*), consequently, the more worn the plumage, the darker the birds appear. The majority of specimens of *D. pallida* are in somewhat worn plumage, while the three specimens of *D. fallax* are in quite fresh condition, hence the differences between the two species pointed out above will probably be greater when the two birds are compared in the same condition of plumage.—C. W. R.]

#### 45. AMAZILIA ALICIAE, Richmond.

##### ALICE'S HUMMING BIRD.

*Amazilia alicia*, RICHMOND, Ank, XII, October, 1895, p. 368.

The range of this brilliant humming bird is just the reverse of that of the preceding—that is, none at all were found in the coast region, and only a few in El Valle; but in ascending the heavily wooded mountains in rear, they became more abundant until when I had reached the perpetual clouds that hung about the peak and entered an atmosphere of mist, they were seen in all directions. The type specimen, a finely plumaged male, I shot from a mango tree as I sat in its shade drinking the milk of a cocoanut. It fell within a few feet of me and was at once seized by a wandering chicken which made off at full speed followed by me in hot pursuit. Fortunately there were no thorns to impede me, and although I broke down a banana plant in my headlong chase, I pressed the chicken so closely that it finally dropped my prize.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151067, U.S.N.M.; Margarita Island, July



4, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 408. Forehead, forepart of crown, lores, ear-coverts, cheeks, sides of neck, and under parts brilliant metallic green; nape, under wing-coverts, and axillaries less metallic green, and of a brassy hue; hind crown, wing-coverts (except primary coverts, which have hardly a shade of metallic color), and back metallic reddish bronze, most intense on the latter, and almost disappearing on rump; upper tail-coverts pale chestnut, some of the feathers centered with purplish blue, which is visible only upon disturbing the feathers; under tail-coverts uniform pale chestnut, without any metallic centers to the feathers, and without admixture of whitish feathers; thighs and crissum silky white; flanks with a tuft of downy white feathers, which are normally concealed; wings blackish, with slight bluish reflections; tail blue black; upper mandible black, lower mandible flesh color except at tip, where black. Wing, 2.07; tail (outer feather), 1.27; depth of fork, 0.18; culmen, 0.80 inches.

Female adult, No. 151068, U.S.N.M.; Margarita Island, July 9, 1895; same collector (No. 483). Similar to the male, but duller: fore-crown and forehead much less brilliant, and not sharply separated from the bronzy shade of hind crown; abdomen mostly dull dusky gray. Wing, 2.04; outer tail feather, 1.24; depth of fork, 0.16; culmen, 0.81 inches.

Lieutenant Robinson brought back eight specimens of this pretty bird, which is named in honor of Mrs. Robinson. It is closely allied to *Amazilia felicia* of the adjacent mainland, but is evidently distinct. I have been unable at this time to compare the new species with males of *felicia*, but, fortunately, Lieutenant Robinson stopped long enough at Laguayra to collect six females of the latter, which are of exceptional interest here, as they were collected at about the same time as those of the new form and are therefore in exactly the same state of plumage. Comparing females, then, the new form differs from *felicia* in having the posterior part of the crown and back reddish bronze instead of green; in having the rump and upper tail-coverts practically without metallic color; the tail less brilliant and steel black instead of blue black; under tail-coverts uniform pale chestnut, without any metallic green or steel blue feathers. This species is also larger than *A. felicia*. In the series of six females of the latter, the under tail-coverts are mixed chestnut and metallic green or steel blue, with occasional grayish feathers; the upper parts are brassy green in four of the specimens, a wash of bronze on the back of the fifth, and quite as pronounced bronze in the sixth as in specimens of *alicia*, but the bronzy appearance is probably due to a stain in this specimen, and covers more of the rump and upper tail-coverts than in specimens of *alicia*.

The sexes are easily separable in this species and from its close affinity to *A. tobaci*, *A. erythronota*, and *A. felicia*, the same is doubtless the case with them. The glittering green cap of the male sharply cut off from the duller remainder of the crown will at once distinguish it from the female.—C. W. R.]



## 46. CHLOROSTILBON CARIBBÆA, Lawrence.

## ATALA'S EMERALD.

Abundant in El Valle and around the plantations in rear, but very few seen in the coast region.

Humming birds which in Colombia are called "pica flores" or "chupa flores" (flower peckers or flower suckers), are called "colibri" farther to the east, and at Lagnayra "toeuso" or "toeusito." In Margarita, where the peculiarities of language amount almost to a dialect, these terms become "toencho" and "tocuchito."

[Ten specimens from Margarita are indistinguishable from others of this species.—C. W. R.]

## Family PIPRIDÆ.

## 47. CHIROXIPHIA LANCEOLATA (Wagler).

## LANCE-TAILED MANAKIN.

Native names "comi toro" and "tintoro," from the fancied resemblance of their notes to these words.

They were abundant in the heavy forests in rear of El Valle and usually kept near the water courses. Their notes had a peculiar liquid and bell-like quality to them, like the lower tones of our wood thrush, and it was especially difficult to judge the distance and direction of the singer. At times the notes appeared double, and as I repeatedly saw a pair of males perched on the same branch and almost in contact, they may have been singing together, although in perfect unison. At Laguayra on July 25 I found a nest of this species. It was suspended in a fork of a stinging nettle, about 5 feet from the ground, and was so very shallow that I wondered why the eggs were not thrown out by the gentlest breeze. It contained two eggs, one addled and one on the point of hatching. They were large for the size of the bird and resembled the eggs of our red bird (*Cardinalis*).

## Family TYRANNIDÆ.

## 48. MILVULUS TYRANNUS (Linnæus).

## FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER.

Native name "tjereta."

Abundant and coming in large numbers at early dawn to feed on the seeds of the copey. All that I saw were in badly worn plumage.

## 49. TYRANNUS DOMINICENSIS (Gmelin).

## GRAY KINGBIRD.

The native name "pitiri," derived from its note, recalls at once the similar name, "pipiri," given by Audubon. They were common both along the coast and in the interior.

## 50. TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS SATRAPA (Lichtenstein).

## CROWNED KINGBIRD.

Common around El Valle, and associating with the fork-tailed flycatcher in feeding on the seeds of the covey.

## 51. MYIARCHUS TYRANNULUS (Müller).

## BLACK-BILLED PETCHARY.

Common at all points on the island. At El Valle, on July 10, I found in a hollow in a small tree in an open field a nest of this species containing four fresh eggs. They cannot be distinguished from those of our great-crested flycatcher (*M. crinitus*), and as is the case with our bird the nest contained the cast skin of a snake.

[Six specimens are represented in the collection. These are referable to *M. tyrannulus*, rather than to Mr. Hartert's form *brevipennis*.—C. W. R.]

## 52. SUBLEGATUS GLABER, Sclater and Salvin.

## VENEZUELAN FLYCATCHER.

Common in the scrub along the coast.

[Three specimens differ from Venezuelan and Trinidad birds only in being slightly smaller.—C. W. R.]

## Family FORMICARIIDÆ.

## 53. THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS (Linnæus).

## BARRED ANT SHRIKE.

Common in all parts of the island. Some of their notes resemble the distant cawing of crows. When scolding at an intruder, both male and female elevate their crests, which seem to spring just in rear of their nostrils and not from the crown of their heads, as in other birds.

[The specimens collected do not differ from those of the mainland or of Tobago. A female, apparently adult, has narrow subterminal black edges on the tertiaries, greater and primary wing-coverts, differing in this way from the numerous other females in our series.—C. W. R.]

## 54. FORMICIVORA INTERMEDIA, Cabanis.

## INTERMEDIATE ANT WREN.

Common and often associated with the spine-tails, creeping about among dead brush and leaves. The young males have at first the plumage of the females and their breasts gradually become black in the same manner as the males of our black-throated green warblers. I found this bird abundant at Lagnayra.

[The Margaritan specimens differ very slightly from those from Laguayra in having a slightly longer bill.—C. W. R.]

## Family DENDROCOLAPTIDÆ.

## 55. DENDROPLEX LONGIROSTRIS, new species.

## MARGARITAN TREE CREEPER.

Abundant in all parts of the island. Their nests are constructed in the post cacti.

[Type.—Male adult, No. 151701, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, July 1, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 374. Similar to *Dendroplex picirostris*, but with longer bill and shorter tail; feathers of throat, foreneck, sides of head and superciliary line uniform buffy white, without darker edgings; light centers of feathers of lower breast twice as broad as in *picirostris*. Wing, 3.88; tail, 2.97; tarsus, 0.87; exposed culmen, 1.20 inches. "Legs pale brownish green; irides brown."

The two specimens, male and female, represented in this collection have been compared with a National Museum specimen from Cartagena, and one from Bogotá loaned by the American Museum. The last is labeled "compared with type," and found to be "typical." Measurements of the four specimens are given below:

*Measurements of Dendroplex picirostris and D. longirostris.*

Museum.	Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Ex. culmen.
			<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
U.S.N.M. . . . .	Adult . . . . .	Cartagena . . . . .	3.93	3.32	0.91	1.01
Am. Mus . . . . .	do . . . . .	Bogotá . . . . .	3.86	3.19	.88	1.05
U.S.N.M. . . . .	Male adult . . . . .	Margarita . . . . .	3.88	2.97	.87	1.20
Do. . . . .	Female adult . . . . .	do . . . . .	3.91	2.87	.90	1.18

C. W. R.]

## Family FURNARIIDÆ.

## 56. SYNALLAXIS ALBESCENS, Temminck.

## WHITE-THROATED SPINE-TAIL.

Common in the scrub, but none seen in the forest land.

[Three specimens collected on Margarita appear to differ from various continental examples in having the throat and under parts purer white, under tail-coverts paler, shoulders and wing-coverts pale. Trinidad birds are pretty close to the Margaritan ones.—C. W. P.]

## Family ICTERIDÆ.

## 57. ICTERUS ICTERUS (Linnæus).

## TROUPIAL.

Native name "trupial" or "tropial," from its note.

These conspicuous and loud-voiced birds were abundant in the coast region, where they fed on the fruit of the cardón.

## 58. ICTERUS XANTHORNIUS (Gmelin).

## YELLOW ORIOLE.

Native name "pespes."

Abundant in all parts of the island, except the heavy forest. Their long pendent nests were usually placed at the extremity of a waving leaf of a cocoa palm.

[The Margaritan specimens of *Icterus xanthornus* differ considerably in size from continental birds. There appears to be no difference in color, but the dimensions (except length of bill) are decidedly beyond the limit found in both the continental form and the Curaçao subspecies. The length of bill in the five specimens collected is intermediate between *xanthornus* and *curasöensis*, but nearer the former. The wing and tail measurements of the two adult males from Margarita, two males from Curaçao, and several from various parts of its continental range, are given below:

*Measurements of Icterus xanthornus.*

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult.....	Demerara .....	3.54	3.30
Do.....	Venezuela .....	3.53	3.18
Do.....	Santa Marta.....	3.59	3.43
Do.....	Brazil.....	3.61	3.34
Do.....	do.....	3.46	3.13
Do.....	Margarita.....	3.90	3.55
Do.....	do.....	3.80	3.55

*Measurements of Icterus xanthornus curasöensis.*

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult.....	Curacao .....	3.65	3.37
Do.....	do.....	3.59	3.41

C. W. R.]

## 59. QUISCALUS INSULARIS, new species.

## MARGARITAN GRACKLE.

Native name, "angoleta."

Very abundant, especially near Porlamar, where they entered the yards in rear of the houses and even ventured upon our dining table in search of crumbs. At certain hours of the day they assembled in flocks of several hundred individuals and frequented heaps of partly decayed seaweed tossed upon the beaches.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151733, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, July 3, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 407. Similar to *Q. lugubris*, but larger; no difference in color in the male. Wing, 4.72; tail, 3.98; tarsus, 1.31; exposed culmen, 1.13 inches. Irides pale yellow.]

The female differs from the same sex in *Q. lugubris* in the much lighter, brownish gray color on throat, gradually passing away on breast and sides of body. The back and head are also lighter than in *Q. lugubris*. The color and pattern of coloration are very similar to those of the female of *Molothrus ater*, but are slightly darker. The wing, tail, and culmen in both sexes are longer than in *Q. lugubris*. We have no specimens of the latter, and my comparison has been with four specimens belonging to the American Museum of Natural History. Measurements of these specimens, and of the three collected by Lieutenant Robinson, are here given:

Measurements of *Quiscalus insularis* and *Q. lugubris*.

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult.....	Margarita.....	4.76	3.89	1.31	1.11
Do.....	do.....	4.72	3.98	1.31	1.13
Female adult.....	do.....	4.01	3.17	1.12	1.02
Male adult.....	Trinidad.....	4.42	3.40	1.24	1.05
Do.....	British Guiana.....	4.31	3.58	1.25	1.04
Do.....	do.....	4.35	3.58	1.31	1.01
Female adult..	Trinidad.....	3.88	3.13	1.13	.93

C. W. R.]

### Family FRINGILLIDÆ.

#### 60. *CARDINALIS ROBINSONI*, Richmond.

##### ROBINSON'S CARDINAL.

*Cardinalis robinsoni*, RICHMOND, Auk, XII, October, 1895, 370.

Native name "guayamate."

Common in the coast region. Their song does not resemble that of our cardinal.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151972, U.S.N.M.; Margarita Island, July 8, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 460. Similar to *C. phæniceus* but smaller, with considerably shorter crest. Apparently no difference in color. Wing, 3.26; tail, 3.29; tarsus, 0.96; culmen, 0.76; length of crest, 1.17 inches.]

The female, of which two specimens are in the collection, differs similarly in dimensions.

The two females are pale creamy buff below, slightly darker ochraceous on flanks and sides of body. The single female of *C. phæniceus* at hand for comparison is deep ochraceous buff below, with the middle of the abdomen buff. This apparent difference in color between the females of the two forms may be due to the condition of plumage in the specimens examined, those of *C. robinsoni* being in worn and that of *C. phæniceus* in fresh plumage.

One of the females of *C. robinsoni* differs from the other, and from the female of *C. phæniceus*, in having the scarlet vermilion of the crest, under part of wing and tail replaced by ochraceous yellow; it is otherwise quite similar.



Measurements of a pair of *C. phaniceus* from Lake Maracaibo and of five specimens of *C. robinsoni* are here given:

*Measurements of Cardinalis phaniceus.*

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Ex. culmen.	Length of crest.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult . . . .	Lake Maracaibo . . . . .	3.45	3.60	0.94	0.73	1.63
Female adult . . . .	do . . . . .	3.33	3.53	.97	.71	1.43

*Measurements of Cardinalis robinsoni.*

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Ex. culmen.	Length of crest.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult . . . .	Margarita Island . . . . .	3.26	3.29	0.96	0.76	1.17
Do . . . . .	do . . . . .	3.20	3.20	.95	.69	1.13
Do . . . . .	do . . . . .	3.20	3.10	.95	.70	1.18
Female adult . . . .	do . . . . .	3.13	3.06	.91	.69	1.11
Do . . . . .	do . . . . .	3.20	3.13	.99	.73	1.25

C. W. R.]

61. VOLATINIA JACARINI SPLENDENS (Vieillot).

GLOSSY GRASSQUIT.

I saw at El Valle perhaps a half dozen individuals. As in the case of *Tachyphonus melaleucus*, the white shoulder patches become hidden in made-up skins.

62. EUETHEIA OMISSA (Jardine).

VENEZUELAN GRASSQUIT.

Plentiful in the scrub near the coast.

[This is the form represented on Margarita. A male from this island and one from Lagunayra are very much alike, except that the under tail-coverts in the former are blackish, with light olive grayish edgings, while in the latter these are broadly edged with yellowish white. In other respects they are quite similar.—C. W. R.]

Family TANAGRIDÆ.

63. TACHYPHONUS MELALEUCUS (Sparman).

BLACK AND WHITE TANAGER.

A good many of these tanagers came to feed on the seeds of the copey.

64. TANAGRA PALMARUM MELANOPTERA (Hartlaub).

BLACK-WINGED PALM TANAGER.

Native name "chiqua," from its note.

## 65. TANAGRA GLAUCOCALPA (Cabanis).

## GLAUCCUS BLUE-WINGED TANAGER.

Native name "azulejo."

These two tanagers were equally abundant around El Valle. Their favorite food was the ripe papaya fruit, but they also fed on mangoes and copey seeds.

[Between two Margarita examples and two from Sabanilla, Colombia, there is some color difference, the former being somewhat brighter blue on breast and sides, and brighter in color generally, which, however, may be due to their fresh condition, the other specimens being old skins. The Margaritan examples are slightly larger, with more robust (but not longer) bills. The differences in dimensions may be seen in the following table:

*Measurements of Tanagra glaucocalpa.*

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.
		<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Male adult.....	Margarita.....	3.52	2.49	0.57
Female adult.....	do.....	3.45	2.50	.59
Adult.....	Sabanilla.....	3.23	2.32	.57
Do.....	do.....	3.39	2.41	.57

C. W. R.]

## Family HIRUNDINID.E.

## 66. PROGNE CHALYBEA (Gmelin).

## STEELY-BACKED MARTIN.

Native name, "golondrina."

A large colony of these had their nests under the tiles of the houses in Porlamar, and a second colony nested in the church at El Valle.

## Family VIREONID.E.

## 67. VIREO CHIVI AGILIS (Lichtenstein).

## AGILE VIREO.

Common in the forests around El Valle. Its resemblance to a highly colored red-eyed vireo is strengthened by a portion of its song, which is indistinguishable from that of our bird.

[A single specimen in the collection appears to be perfectly typical.—  
C. W. R.]

## 68. HYLOPHILUS GRISEIPES, new species.

## GRAY-FOOTED HYLOPHILUS.

This little vireo was common in the coast region and was usually found in the cactus hedges bordering the road, where its actions seemed much like those of our Maryland yellow throat.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151741, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, July 3, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 101.

Upper parts olive green, clearer greenish on rump and upper tail-coverts, with a grayish wash, particularly on top of head; tail similar, edged externally with lighter green, inner webs of most of the feathers narrowly edged with yellowish green; primaries blackish brown, becoming lighter on secondaries and tertiaries, which latter are similar in color to the tail, and bordered on outer webs with greenish like outer webs of the rectrices; wing-coverts similar to the back; bend of wing, axillaries, under wing coverts, inner webs of quills (except at tips), and under tail-coverts bright light yellow, deepest on axillaries, and least so on under tail-coverts. Throat grayish white; center of breast and sides of abdomen creamy buff; center of abdomen buffy silky white; sides of breast, body, and flanks greenish buff; superciliary line grayish buff; lores, sides of forehead, near bill, and sides of head grayish white. Bill blackish, paler at base of lower mandible; legs and feet grayish-lead." Wing, 2.05; tail, 1.69; tarsus, 0.67; exposed culmen, 0.43; exposed portion of first primary, 0.74 inches. A second male measures: Wing, 2.12; tail, 1.59; tarsus, 0.68; exposed culmen, 0.39; exposed portion of first primary, 0.68 inches.

This species appears to be most closely related to *H. flavipes*, but is smaller, without the yellowish bill and feet, and lacks the yellowish tinge on the under parts, superciliary line, forehead, lores, etc. It has the dark feet of *aurantiifrons*, but differs from it very decidedly in other respects. It is also apparently quite different from *H. ferrugineifrons* and *H. luteifrons* of Schater.

C. W. R.]

#### Family COEREBIDÆ.

##### 69. COEREBIA LUTEOLA Cabanis).

##### VENEZUELAN HONEY CREEPER.

Common in the scrub, feeding principally on the fruit of the cardón. [Two males from Margarita do not differ from others of this species.—  
C. W. R.]

##### 70. ARBELORHINA CYANEA EXIMIA (Cabanis).

##### VENEZUELAN GUIT-GUIT.

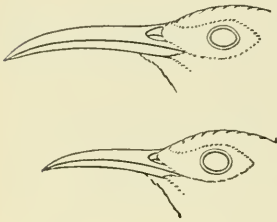
The native name of this beautiful little bird, "copecillo," is given because it feeds almost entirely on the seeds of the copey.

At certain hours of the day they swarmed in the tree tops. In specimens from Margarita the beak is nearly one-third longer than in others from various parts of its Central and South American range, and this variation might possibly be accounted for from the fact that, being unable to tear the thick rind of the copey fruit, they must depend

upon reaching the seeds in the narrow clefts by means of their slender and long beaks.

[A series of thirteen specimens from Margarita present the characters claimed for this subspecies very clearly. The accompanying figure, representing an average Central American bird, and also the longest-billed Margaritan specimen, will show the great difference in length of bill between the two forms. Specimens of *A. c. eximia* from the mainland of Venezuela (from whence the form was originally described) are not, judging from the material in the U. S. National Museum collection, very constant in regard to the characters of this subspecies, some of the specimens from that country being very close to the true *cyanea*. There

is also a wide variation in length of bill in specimens from Trinidad and Tobago, where *eximia* appears to occur.



HEADS OF ARBELORHINA CYANEA  
EXIMIA AND A. CYANEA.

The average length of the exposed culmen in ten males from Margarita is 0.82 inch, the extremes being 0.73 and 0.90 inch. Dr. J. A. Allen gives the average length of exposed culmen in fifteen males from Matto Grosso, selected at random, as 0.54 inch, with extremes of 0.48 and 0.59 inch, these figures all falling considerably below the minimum measurement in the Margaritan males.

In three Margaritan females the exposed culmen averages 0.78 inch, with 0.85 and 0.64 inch as extremes, the last being much the shortest of the entire series. In nine males the wing measurements average 2.56 inches, with extremes of 2.48 and 2.70 inches; the fifteen males measured by Dr. Allen average 2.68 inches, with extremes of 2.57 and 2.76 inches.

The Margaritan birds do not differ in color from those of other localities, and in this respect individuals from one end of the bird's range to the other are remarkably uniform.—C. W. R.]

#### Family MIMIDÆ.

##### 71. MIMUS GILVUS (Vieillot).

##### GRACEFUL MOCKING BIRD.

Native name "paraulata."

With the exception of the scaled dove, this was the most abundant bird on the island, being found everywhere except in the heavy forest. On July 15 I found a nest with three partly incubated eggs which were indistinguishable from those of our mocking bird.

[In three specimens from Margarita the length of the exposed culmen varies from 0.75 to 0.85 inch, giving the birds a place intermediate between *gilvus* and *rostratus*.—C. W. R.]

## Family SYLVIIDÆ.

## 72. POLIOPTILA PLUMBICEPS, Lawrence.

## LAWRENCE'S GNATCATCHER.

*Polioptila plumbeiceps*, LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Sci. Phil., 1865, 37.

Abundant at all points on the island, its habits closely resembling those of our gnatcatcher.

[Five specimens, including two males, were collected at Laguayra and Margarita. These are sufficiently distinct from *P. nigriceps* of western Mexico to deserve a name, and *P. plumbeiceps* of Lawrence, although a misnomer, is the only available name I have been able to find. This species was based on a female or young male from Venezuela, and was thought by Mr. Lawrence to represent a fourth section of the genus, having the entire crown dark plumbeous. The adult male has, however, as black and glossy a cap as *P. nigriceps*. From the type and two other specimens of *P. nigriceps* the present specimens differ in having considerably shorter tails (average about 0.30 inch), wing and tarsus also a trifle shorter, and in having slightly broader bills. The white edging on the outer webs of tertiaries is prominent in the Venezuelan and Margaritan specimens. The black base of the outer tail feather may end obliquely or transversely (as in two females from Laguayra), but in three of the specimens is slightly oblique, and in all of the specimens is concealed by the under tail-coverts.—C. W. R.]

## Family TURDIDÆ.

## 73. PLATYCICHLA CARBONARIA (Lichtenstein).

## YELLOW-BILLED THRUSH.

Beak, feet, and lids gamboge yellow, skin around eye yellowish. I saw only two individuals and they were in the heavy forest up in the region of perpetual mist.

## II. BIRDS OBSERVED AT GUANTA, VENEZUELA.

On the return trip from Margarita to Laguayra our steamer stopped for a few hours on July 2 to take on coal at Guanta, a port 12 miles east of Barcelona. The harbor is almost landlocked and thoroughly protected on three sides by high hills. It has a commodious wharf erected by an English company operating a railroad from Guanta to Barcelona, and thence some miles farther into the interior to a coal mine, whence the company is obtaining a good supply of coal. The hills surrounding the harbor are fairly well clothed with trees, and the shores are thickly fringed with mangrove swamps, which, owing to the breeze being shut off by the hills, reek with malaria. At the back of the harbor there is a flat valley, down which a tortuous stream creeps sluggishly in a



bed of tenacious blue mud. This valley contains a very extensive cocoa-nut grove, with plantains growing beneath the trees. In the mud at the foot of these trees large blue crabs (*Cardisoma guanhumi*, Latreille) have their burrows, and sit, like spiders, watching for prey. They made off with two of the birds that I shot before I could reach them. The little red squirrels (*Sciurus astuans hoffmanni*), the "arditos" of the natives, are abundant here. I spent about two hours in this grove with my butterfly net and my gun, and was kept busy. Birds were seen in every direction and in the greatest abundance; pigeons, doves, parakeets, flycatchers, caracara eagles, hawks, delicate little swallow-tailed swifts (*Panyptila cayennensis?*) flying high in the air, and no less than eight different species of humming birds. The following is a very imperfect list of my observations:

1. SULA, sp.
2. PELECANUS FUSCUS, Linnæus.
3. LEPTOTILA, sp.
4. COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA (Linnæus).
5. SCARDAFELLA, sp.
6. CATHARISTA ATRATA (Bartram).
7. POLYBORUS CHERIWAY (Jacquinot).
8. CONURUS, sp., probably C. ÆRUGINOSUS.
9. CROTOPHAGA ANI, Linnæus.
10. PANYPTILA CAYENNENSIS?
11. GLAUCIS HIRSUTUS (Gmelin).
12. PHÆTHORNIS, sp.
13. HYPUROPTILA BUFFONI (Lesson).
14. FLORICOLA LONGIROSTRIS (Vieillot).
15. AGYRTRIA VIRIDISSIMA (Lesson).
16. AMAZILIA FELICIAË (Lesson).
17. CHLOROSTILBON CARIBBÆA, Lawrence.
18. HELEODYTES NUCHALIS (Cabanis).<sup>1</sup>

The large wrens (*Heleodytes nuchalis*) were especially abundant in marshy thickets along the little stream. They were very voluble, and were continually spluttering out a magnified edition of the bubbling song of our little marsh wren. Like our marsh wrens, they seem to build surplus nests, for I found no less than six in one small bush. The nests of cocoa palm fiber, lined with hair and feathers, are covered

<sup>1</sup> Fresh colors of a female collected are: Irides yellowish white; legs light lead; beak brownish above, flesh below.

over and have two openings. I found several nests with eggs: one contained eight fresh eggs, most of which were white, but some faintly spotted with reddish brown.

### III. BIRDS OBSERVED AT LAGUAYRA, VENEZUELA.

I spent altogether ten days at Laguayra, June 20 to 27 and July 23 to 26, but finding the birds in very poor plumage, I obtained only some thirty skins and confined myself to insects.

The lofty mountains in rear of Laguayra descend precipitately into the sea, having at their feet a narrow strip of fairly level ground, in some places barely 100 yards wide. The lower portions of these mountains are scantily clad with a growth of scrubby thorn trees and cactus, but near their summits, where the needed moisture is furnished by the condensation of clouds, there are heavy forests. Such is the steepness of the mountain slopes that these forests are practically inaccessible. However, at a few spots streams find their way down to the sea, and by ascending the ravines which serve as their beds, one can penetrate to some distance from the coast. Such a stream is found three-quarters of a mile east of the town, and in my daily excursions I usually followed up its course for probably a couple of miles, where progress was stopped by almost perpendicular slopes. The ravine was well wooded and bird life was abundant, as it was also around the edges of the fields on the flat coast strip. High up in this ravine I caught a small light-colored crab (*Pseudothelphusa*), which lived in burrows among the roots of trees, and which has proved to be a new species. I also got a number of lizards and snakes here, and found butterflies in great abundance, especially the *Heliconias*, *Callidryas*, and *Ithomias*. This was the only spot where I found *Morphos* and *Calligoes*, but they were all badly tattered and worn.

The number of birds that I identified is but small in proportion to those that I observed. The following is therefore a very imperfect list of the birds of the vicinity of Laguayra:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
|              | 1. STERNA, sp.                         |
| Abundant.    |  |
|              | 2. PELECANUS FUSCUS, Linnæus.          |
| Abundant.    |  |
|              | 3. FREGATA AQUILA (Linnæus).           |
| Abundant.    |  |
|              | 4. EUPSYCHORTYX, sp.                   |
| A pair seen. |  |
|              | 5. LEPTOTILA, sp.                      |
| Many seen.   |  |
|              | 6. COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA (Linnæus). |
| Abundant.    |  |
|              | 7. CATHARTES AURA (Linnæus).           |
| Abundant.    |  |

## 8. CATHARISTA ATRATA (Bartram).

Abundant.

## 9. CROTOPHAGA ANI, Linnæus.

Abundant.

## 10. COCCYZUS MELANOCORYPHUS, Vieillot.

One obtained.

## 11. CERYLE AMERICANA (Gmelin).

One seen.

## 12. MELANERPES, sp.

One shot.

## 13. CHÆTURA, sp.

Abundant.

## 14. GLAUCIS HIRSUTUS (Gmelin).

One seen.

## 15. HYPUROPTILA BUFFONI (Lesson).

A pair obtained.

## 16. AMAZILIA FELICIÆ (Lesson).

Abundant.

## 17. CHLOROSTILBON CARIBBÆA, Lawrence.

Abundant; some young males obtained in June in an intermediate stage of plumage.

## 18. THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS (Linnæus).

Common.

## 19. FORMICIVORA INTERMEDIA, Cabanis.

Abundant.

## 20. CHIROXIPHIA LANCEOLATA (Wagler).

Common in the forest.

21. POGONOTRICCUS,<sup>1</sup> sp.

One shot.

22. PLATYRHYNCHUS MYSTACEUS INSULARIS,<sup>2</sup> Allen.

One skin obtained.

## 23. TODIROSTRUM CINEREUM (Linnæus).

Common.

## 24. QUISCALUS, sp.

Common.

<sup>1</sup>[This specimen is immature, and so different from the adults of any of the known species that I am unable to identify it. In color it somewhat resembles *Sublegatus glaber*, but the wing bars are tinged with buffy brown instead of white.—C. W. R.]

<sup>2</sup>[A specimen with a slight coronal patch, marked female, agrees in this respect with several females collected in Trinidad by Mr. Chapman. This example is very close to Trinidad birds, but is darker green on the upper parts, the wings are less brown, the wing bars are lighter, the ear-coverts and orbital ring are clearer yellow, and the abdomen is also clearer and lighter yellow. These differences are not very pronounced, however. The type female from Tobago is somewhat lighter on the back than Trinidad examples, and the latter bear the same relation to the Laguayra specimen. The last named is the farthest removed from *P. mystaceus* from Brazil, and also from the type of *insularis*.—C. W. R.]

25. *VOLATINIA JACARINI SPLENDENS* (Vieillot).

Common.

26. *EUETHEIA OMISSA* (Jardine).

Abundant.

27. *TACHYPHONUS MELALEUCUS* (Sparrman).

Common.

28. *TANAGRA CANA* ?

Common.

29. *PROGNE CHALYBEA* (Gmelin).

Common.

30. *ATTICORA CYANOLEUCA* (Vieillot).

Abundant.

31. *VIREO CHIVI AGILIS* (Lichtenstein).

Common.

32. *COEREBA LUTEOLA* (Cabanis).

Common.

33. *POLIOPTILA PLUMBICEPS*, Lawrence.

Common.

34. *THRYOTHORUS RUTILUS*, Vieillot.

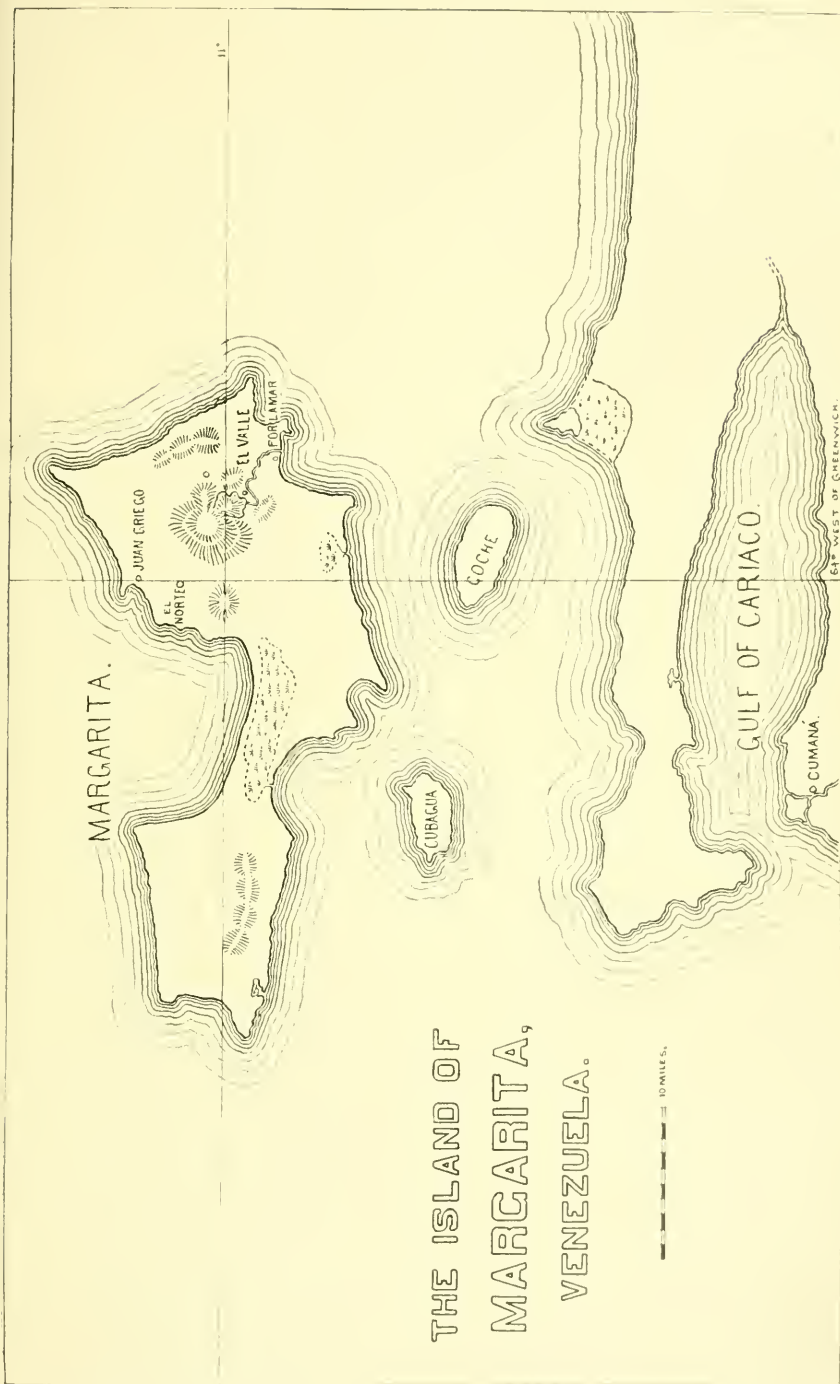
One obtained.

35. *TROGLODYTES RUFULUS*, Cabanis.

This species is common, nesting in the crevices among the leafstalks of the cocoa palms. Its song is almost exactly the same as that of our house wren.







THE ISLAND OF  
MARGARITA,  
VENEZUELA.

