

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

GENERAL NOTES.

---

**The occurrence of *Cardiospermum halicacabum* Linn. in Louisiana.**

While traversing a rather sparsely wooded tract between the levee and the Mississippi River, in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, I found, in considerable abundance, an interesting plant. This was *Cardiospermum halicacabum* Linn.: the season being late November, the vines were in ripe fruit, and low bushes in every direction were festooned with the inflated capsules of this sub-tropical herb. I think this record considerably extends the known range of the species.—*Andrew Allison, Labdell, Louisiana.*

**Note on *Pinaroloxias inornata* (Gould).**

*Cactornis inornata*, based on a single individual said to have been obtained on Bow Island, in the Paumotu or Low Archipelago, was described by Gould in 1843 Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1843. p. 104). This small finch-like bird was collected during the cruise of the 'Sulphur,' and is figured in the 'zoology' of that voyage. No specimens of this species have since been found in the Paumotus, nor is there any near relative of the bird known to occur within two or three thousand miles of Bow Island.

Gould placed the species in the genus *Cactornis*, and this disposition of it appears to have been nearer the truth than the efforts of later authors. Gray (Birds Tropical Islands of the Pacific, 1859, p. 28), included it in *Loxops*, but Salvin (Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., IX, 1876, p. 485), who studied it in connection with the Galapagos finches, found that it differed from both *Loxops* and *Cactornis*. Finally, Sharpe placed it in the family *Dicaeidae*, under the new generic heading *Pinaroloxias*, where it has since remained.

The habitat assigned this species has apparently not been questioned

in recent years, yet Bow Island is a small atoll in the South Pacific, one of a large number of coral islets composing the Paumotu chain, and withal a most unlikely place for any member of either the *Diovidæ* or *Fringillidæ*.

Darwin (Zool. Voy. 'Beagle,' Birds, 1841, p. 105), in concluding his account of the Galapagos finches refers to the present bird, as follows: "I may here mention that a third and well characterized species of *Cactornis* has lately been sent by Captain Belcher, R. N. to the Zoological Society; as Capt. Belcher visited Cocos Island, which is the nearest land to the Galapagos Archipelago, being less than 400 miles distant, it is very probable that the species came thence." As we now know something of the ornithology of Cocos Island, Darwin's suggestion would lead us to suspect the lately described *Cocornis agassizi* Townsend (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XXVII, 1895, p. 123, pl.), to be identical with *Pinaroloxias inornata*, and a comparison between a female of the former and Sharpe's description (Catal. Birds Brit. Mus., X, p. 52) of the latter, actually proves them to be one and the same species. That there was some uncertainty about the habitat of *Cactornis inornata* at the time Darwin wrote is evident from his surmise that Cocos Island was its true home. From the foregoing it will be seen that the ornithology of Polynesia can no longer claim *Pinaroloxias inornata*, which name should in future be applied to the Cocos Island bird.—*Charles W. Richmond.*

#### The common *Nyctinomus* of the Greater Antilles.

In the original description of *Nyctinomus antillarum*, the common free-tailed bat of the Lesser Antilles (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, 1902, p. 398, September 12, 1902), I compared the species with the related form occurring in the Greater Antilles, but neglected to mention the technical name of the latter. This is *Nyctinomus musculus* Gundlach (Monatsber. k. Preuss. Akad. Wissensch., Berlin, 1861, p. 149), based on Cuban specimens. The animal is readily distinguishable from all of the known continental members of the *Nyctinomus brasiliensis* group by its smaller size, shorter ear, and rudimentary, peg-like anterior lower premolar.—*Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.*

#### *Lophostoma venezuelæ* changed to *Tonatia venezuelæ*.

In publishing a paper in conjunction with Capt. Wirt Robinson, on a collection of mammals made in the vicinity La Guaira, Venezuela. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXIV p. 154, Oct. 3, 1901, I overlooked Dr. Palmer's "Random notes on the nomenclature of the Chiroptera," Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XII p. 111, April 30, 1898, where he shows that *Lophostoma* D'Orbigny 1836 is antedated by *Tonatia* Gray 1827. The bat described from near La Guaira as *Lophostoma venezuelæ* should stand as *Tonatia venezuelæ* (Robinson and Lyon)—*Marcus W. Lyon, Jr.*