

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS
FROM ST. VINCENT, WEST INDIES.

BY AUSTIN H. CLARK.

On working up a collection of birds obtained by myself on the island of St. Vincent during 1903-04, I find three forms apparently well worthy of recognition. All three of these birds appear to be rare in collections, which possibly accounts for their not having been previously characterized. Two (*Urubitinga anthracina cancrivora* nob. and *Holoquiscalus dispar* nob.) are only known from St. Vincent, although the former possibly occurs on St. Lucia and Dominica; *Buteo antillarum* nob. has an extensive West Indian range, and may be found to be separable into several local races.

***Holoquiscalus dispar* sp. nov.**

"BARBADOS" BLACKBIRD. BEQUIA SWEET.

Type. From Kingstown, St. Vincent, Oct. 31, 1903. No. 12,802, female adult, coll. E. A. and O. Bangs.

Characters. Bill much as in *H. inflexirostris* of St. Lucia; longer and more compressed than in *H. martinicensis* of Martinique. The male is similar in color to the males of both these species, but the female is very different from either, being even darker than the female of *H. fortirostris* of Barbados, though somewhat like it in color. In size the bird is a little smaller than *H. martinicensis*.

MEASUREMENTS.

	Culmen mm.	Wing mm.	Tail mm.	Tarsus mm.
No. 12,801 Topotype: adult ♂	28.2	118.0	106.5	33.2
No. 12,803 " " ♀	24.0	93.0	—	29.6
No. 12,802 Type " ♀	23.0	92.5	77.5	30.0

Distribution. Island of St. Vincent; confined to the vicinity of Kingstown, and neighboring windward district.

***Buteo antillarum* sp. nov.**

ANTILLEAN CHICKEN HAWK. GREE-GREE.

Type. From Chateaubelair, St. Vincent (British West Indies), Sept. 24, 1903. No. 12,852, male adult, coll. E. A. and O. Bangs.

Characters. Somewhat similar to *Buteo platypterus* Vieill., but smaller and more rufous, the rufous edgings to the feathers above wider, the underparts more rufous, and the thighs buff, more thickly barred than in *B. platypterus*. In the young the ground color below is buffy white, becoming darker on the abdomen and thighs. Iris yellowish white in all stages, not brown as in *B. platypterus*. Cere yellow. Feet orange yellow. Bill dark slaty.

MEASUREMENTS.

		Wing mm.	Tail mm.	Tarsus mm.
<i>B. antillarum</i>	Type ♂ St. Vincent	248	154	55
"	♂ "	244	154	54
"	♂ "	240	152	53
"	♀ "	272	165	55
"	♀ "	256	163	53
"	♀ "	254	151	55
"	♀ "	253	154	54
"	♂* Dominica	258	154	62
"	♂ "	252	159	59
"	♂ "	244	156	59
"	♀ "	251	156	60
"	♀ "	252	165	60
<i>B. platypterus</i>	♂ Panama (winter)	278	171	60
"	♂ "	270	158	61
"	♂ "	264	160	63
"	♀ "	275	170	61

* The sex as marked on the specimens from Dominica appears to be questionable in some instances.

A comparison between the specimens from St. Vincent and others from the island of Dominica, kindly loaned by Dr. Louis B. Bishop, shows that the Dominica bird is darker and more sooty above, more heavily marked on the breast, and deeper buff on the underparts, suggesting the presence of a good local race on that island. All the birds were obtained in October and September. The iris of the Dominica birds is given as white (A. H. Verrill, collector).

I have examined a specimen from Cuba (in the collection of Messrs. E. A. and O. Bangs) which agrees very well with the St. Vincent examples except in size. It is marked "male," but is the size of the females from St. Vincent. There is a possibility that the bird is wrongly sexed.

While on the island of Carriacou in the Grenadines, I had an opportunity of examining, through the kindness of Dr. Dunbar B. B. Hughes, a number of eggs of this bird, in the collection of the late Mr. John Grant Wells, which were obtained in Grenada. Six sets were represented. The eggs are dull bluish white, unspotted. The natives at St. Vincent also informed me that this bird laid unspotted eggs.

Distribution. Grenada, Bequia (Grenadines), St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, and probably other of the lesser Antilles; Cuba. ? Porto Rico

***Urubitinga anthracina cancrivora* subsp. nov.**

WEST INDIAN BLACK HAWK. CRABIER.

Type. From Barrouallie, St. Vincent, Jan. 22, 1904. No. 12,804, female adult, coll. E. A. and O. Bangs.

Characters. Bill longer and relatively narrower, with more produced tip than in true *U. anthracina* from the mainland; feathers of hind neck and back spotted with buff and white (in *U. a. anthracina* the hind neck is spotted with whitish, but there is very little if any on the back); general color deeper black than in the mainland form.

This bird inhabits the higher wooded valleys of St. Vincent, keeping near the ground. It is rarely seen far from water.

The type specimen was presented to me by Mr. John F. H. Otway, the Colonial Postmaster of St. Vincent.