

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF
GRENADA.

BY T. BARBOUR.

During part of August and September of the past summer, Dr. Glover M. Allen and Mr. C. T. Brues visited Grenada for the purpose of studying the fauna. Their collections are now all in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The ornithological collection from Grenada already in the Museum was so complete that no attempt was made to preserve series of the common birds. Special efforts to secure some of the more interesting forms were rewarded by the examples upon which these notes are based.

***Hybris* nigrescens noctividus* subsp. nov.**

Type, from St. George's, Grenada, No. 53,586, Museum of Comparative Zoology, adult male. Collected by Glover M. Allen, September 15, 1910.

Characters.—Size that of *Aluco nigrescens* (Lawrence) of Dominica, but differing as follows: tarsus somewhat longer; under parts darker in color, and much more heavily spotted with dusky; upper parts darker, and more profusely marked with larger white spots than in the owl from Dominica.

Measurements.—Wing, 230 mm.; tail, 100 mm.; tarsus, 110 mm.; culmen, 30 mm.

Remarks.—Thanks to the courtesy of Dr. Charles W. Richmond we have been enabled to compare the type of Lawrence's *A. nigrescens*, a male from Dominica (U. S. N. M. No. 77,843), as well as another from the same locality (U. S. N. M. No. 80,017), with an adult female also from this island (Bang's Coll. M. C. Z. No. 13,614). These three birds are all pale ochraceous below, somewhat mixed with whitish; while the dusky spots are confined almost wholly to the belly.

* *Hybris* is used instead of *Tyto*, which Matthews suggests (cf. Matthews, *Nor. Zool.*, XVII, 1910, p. 500), because *Tyto*, the name for an owl, is preoccupied by *Tyta* Billberg, the name for an owlet moth. The two names have the same derivation from the Greek word $\tau\upsilon\tau\acute{\omega}$, meaning an owl.

Our Grenada material consists of the type already mentioned, and seven others, of which three are loaned by the United States National Museum; the Museum of Comparative Zoology having specimens from Bequia in the Grenadine Islands, as well as St. Vincent. All the birds from these southern islands of the Lesser Antillean chain are similar; and have the underparts tawny, somewhat darker than Ridgway's color on plate 5.

***Planesticus nigrirostris personus* subsp. nov.**

Type, from the Grand Etang, 2,000 feet altitude, Grenada. No. 53,598, Museum of Comparative Zoology, adult male. Collected by Glover M. Allen, September 6, 1910.

Characters.—Similar to *P. nigrirostris* (Lawrence) of St. Vincent, but differing in that the upper parts are much more darkly olivaceous, less reddish olive; the lower parts more grayish, less rufescent; and the underwing covers rather paler.

Remarks.—Mr. Ridgway, in *Birds of North and Middle America*, has already called attention to these differences. The characters being constant, as a comparison shows, these birds may be considered separate subspecies, as he suggested possible.

Among the birds credited to Grenada was one described from a single young specimen in very bad preservation, the only one ever known, and called *Blacicus flaviventris* Lawrence.

Wells, known for so many years as a collector of Grenadian birds, tried in vain to find other specimens of this extremely rare Tyrant bird. Dr. Allen was especially cautioned to watch for it, and by rare good fortune secured an adult male in the deep forest near the Grand Etang, a lake in the central part of the island at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. This specimen was the only one which he saw, in spite of a long and careful search. It was obvious at once that the bird was very different from any other *Blacicus*; and Mr. Ridgway, when he saw it, decided definitely that it was really an *Empidonax*; although there was no doubt as to the identity of this specimen with the remains of the type, now in the United States National Museum. As the specific name *flaviventris* is preoccupied, it becomes necessary to give this bird a new name. A note regarding its relationships, and a description follow.

***Empidonax johnstonei* nom. nov.**

Described from an adult male, No. 53,591, Museum of Comparative Zoology; from the Grand Etang, Grenada, B. W. I., 5 Sept., 1910, collected by Glover M. Allen.

This Tyrant bird apparently has been derived from *Empidonax lawrencei* Allen, of Trinidad, but it has become differentiated by isolation to a considerable extent. I have been enabled to make direct comparison with a fine male of *E. lawrencei* (American Museum of Natural History No. 59,067) thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Dewitt A. Miller.

Characters.—Similar to *E. lawrencei* but smaller; with a narrower bill;

color pattern very similar but the upper parts a very dark greenish olive, the cap and cheeks dusky; instead of dull olive green with the cap but little darker. Wing bars narrower and darker, being tawny ochraceous instead of ochraceous buff. Throat more purely white, underparts otherwise the same.

Measurements.—M. C. Z. No. 53,591, ♂: Wing, 60; tail, 54; tarsus, 14.5; exposed culmen, 12. A. M. N. H. No. 59,067, ♂: Princetown, Trinidad, March 16, 1893, F. M. Chapman, collector. Wing, 64; tail, 58; tarsus, 13.5; exposed culmen, 13.

The new specific name of this rare bird, which is especially interesting as being the only Antillean species of its genus, is given in honor of His Honor Robert S. Johnstone, Chief Justice of Grenada and dependencies, who has often aided the members of expeditions from this Museum by his kind hospitality and in many other ways.