

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS FROM  
GONAVE ISLAND, HAITI.

BY CHAS. W. RICHMOND AND BRADSHAW H. SWALES.

From July, 1916, to the winter of 1923, Dr. W. L. Abbott has made annual, and in some years semiannual, visits to Santo Domingo and Haiti, collecting miscellaneous natural history material for the United States National Museum. Among the specimens sent in were nearly 1400 bird skins, in addition to alcoholics and skeletons, including nearly 200 skins from Gonave Island. Gonave (or Gonaive) Island is hardly more than 15 miles off the east coast of Haiti, in the Gulf of Gonave or Leogane. It is the largest of the islets on the coast of the larger island, and is about 35 miles long by not over 10 miles wide, but apparently far enough from the mainland to have given rise to a few well-marked subspecies which we have recognized as follows:

***Saurothera longirostris petersi***, new subspecies.

*Type*, No. 251,486, U. S. National Museum, adult male, Gonave Island, Haiti, Feb. 20, 1918; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Characters*.—Differs from *S. l. longirostris*<sup>1</sup> in lacking a buffy brown throat patch, and in the paler color of the abdomen, under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, etc., and in slightly larger dimensions, except wing.

*Description of type*.—Upper parts (including scapulars, secondaries, wing-coverts and upper tail-coverts) clear gray (nearly smoke gray), darker and with a brownish wash on the pileum; secondaries with a greenish wash in some lights; ear-coverts, malar region, sides of neck, throat, chest and breast, pale smoke gray, paler on throat, where there is a faint trace of light buff in some specimens (absent in the type); abdomen, sides, flanks, thighs, under tail-coverts, axillars, and under wing-coverts near ochraceous-

<sup>1</sup>*Cuculus longirostris* Hermann (Tabula Affinitatum Animalium, 1783, 186, note) has many years priority over *Saurothera dominicensis* Lafresnaye, 1847, as shown by Stresemann (Novitates Zoologicae, XXVII, 1920, 330).

buff or warm buff, lighter than the corresponding areas of *S. l. longirostris*; primaries hazel, the tips of the feathers and terminal portions of outer webs (becoming more extensive on the outer primaries) grayish brown; middle rectrices (including narrow margin at tip) colored like the secondaries, with a broad subterminal bluish black band; text pair of feathers similar, but bluish black area larger, the tip of the feather with narrow white end; remaining rectrices mostly bluish black, with successively broader white tips and narrower gray bases.

*Measurements.*—Length, in the flesh, 435, wing, 136; tail, 224; tarsus, 37; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 38 mm.

Average measurements of 17 skins of *S. l. longirostris*: wing, 136.4; tail, 214.5; tarsus, 36.5; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 35 mm. Nine skins of *S. l. petersi* measure: wing, 134.2; tail, 215.7; tarsus, 37.2; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 40 mm.

*Remarks.*—One female of the mainland form, from Jarabacoa, Santo Domingo, has comparatively little buffy brown on the throat, though this is darker than in the darkest one of *petersi*, a male, collected Feb. 21, 1918. Other Gonave birds (6 skins) show still less buffy brown, and others (3 skins) have no trace of it whatever.

Named for Mr. James Lee Peters, who did some ornithological work on the north side of the island, and who has since made extensive collections in Argentina.

#### ***Calyptophilus frugivorus abbotti*, new subspecies.**

*Type*, No. 251,669, U. S. National Museum, adult male, Gonave Island, Haiti, Feb. 18, 1918; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Characters.*—Differs from *Calyptophilus f. frugivorus* in being slightly smaller and noticeably paler in color, with the head not darker than the remainder of the upper parts; under wing-coverts and axillars not so strongly yellow; sides and flanks and under tail-coverts paler.

*Description of type.*—Pileum, hindneck and sides of neck deep grayish olive, the feathers of crown and forehead with darker centers; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts deep olive, without sharp demarkation between the color of the hindneck and back, and becoming browner on the upper tail-coverts; wings and tail deep olive, like the back; lesser wing-coverts olive, washed with warbler green; primary coverts buffy brown or olive brown; ear-coverts deep grayish olive, with indistinct lighter shaft streaks; supra-loral region, extending to upper eyelid, yellow, some of the feathers with dusky tips; lores white, the feathers tipped with dusky; malar region, throat, breast and abdomen white, becoming pale smoke gray on sides of chest; sides and flanks gray brown (between drab and light grayish brown); thighs drab; edge of inner webs of primaries and secondaries deep olive buff; edge of wing strontian yellow, the axillars similar, but the inner feathers much paler; under wing-coverts buffy olive, the feathers edged with whitish; under tail-coverts buffy whitish, the feathers with darker centers.

*Measurements.*—Length (in flesh), male, 204; wing, 80.5; tail, 80.5; tarsus, 28; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 14 mm. Female, length (in

flesh), 185; wing, 77.5; tail, 78; tarsus, 24.5; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 14 mm.

*Remarks.*—One pair only. The color of the iris in the female is stated to be "brown." Named for Dr. William L. Abbott, who has made some remarkable discoveries in Haiti and Santo Domingo in recent years.

***Phaenicophilus poliocephalus coryi*, new subspecies.**

*Type*, No. 251,609, U. S. National Museum, adult male, Gonave Island, Haiti, Feb. 19, 1918; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Characters.*—Differs from *Phaenicophilus p. poliocephalus* in larger size, and in having the center of the abdomen and middle of the breast white; lighter under tail-coverts (as a rule, though not always); and (particularly in males) a tendency toward the formation of a small white spot on the median line of the crown, immediately posterior to the black of the forehead. Traces of white are shown also in a few males of *P. p. poliocephalus*, but the traces are very slight.

*Measurements.*—Average of 9 Haitian males of *P. p. poliocephalus*: wing, 84.7; tail, 69 (one tail defective and omitted); tarsus, 22.8; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 13.9 mm.

Average of 6 females from Haiti: wing, 83.3; tail, 68.1; tarsus, 22.5; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 14.1 mm.

Average of 8 males of *P. p. coryi*: wing, 90.2; tail, 69.5; tarsus, 24.6; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 15.3 (one bill defective and omitted) mm.

One female of *P. p. coryi* measures: wing, 90; tail, 69; tarsus, 25; bill, from anterior end of nostril, 15 mm.

*Remarks.*—Named for the late Charles Barney Cory, who published a work on "The Birds of Haiti and San Domingo," in 1885, and whose name is indelibly stamped on the birds of this region.