

female of this pair was in perfect summer dress, but the male had a deal of white on his under parts.

By the middle of October the majority of these birds are in perfect winter costume. Their numbers are kept reduced by their foes—man, fox, Raven, and Falcon.

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON WEST INDIAN BIRDS.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

A CAREFUL comparison of a large series of specimens representing the genus *Bellona* tends to show that *Bellona exilis* (with slight variations) occurs as far south as St. Lucia, or St. Vincent, if we do not recognize *B. ornatus* from that island. A series of the so-called *B. ornatus* from St. Vincent, now before me, shows the blue coloration of the terminal portion of the crest to be quite constant. Some specimens from the northern islands approach it, although none are quite so highly colored. The blue color on the crest of *B. cristata* has a strong purple tint in some lights. Assuming that *B. ornatus* represents a fairly good insular form, we have

Bellona exilis (Gmel.). — Porto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Saba, St. Kitts, St. Bartholemew, Montserrat, Nevis, Dominica, Marie-Galante, Desirade, Grand-Terre, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, and Martinique.

Bellona ornatus (Gould).—St. Vincent.

Bellona cristata (Linn.).—Grenada and Barbadoes.

In 'Birds of the West Indies' I have given *B. cristata* from St. Lucia, Martinique, and St. Bartholomew, as it was recorded from those islands by other writers. It is probable that *B. cristata* is restricted to the islands of Grenada and Barbadoes.

Volatinia splendens (Vieill.).

This species is given in the 'Birds of the West Indies' as *Volatinia jacarina* (Linn.), the error being caused by my being

unable to procure specimens from Grenada. Through the kindness of Mr. J. Grant Wells, I have lately secured several fine specimens of this interesting species, and it turns out to be *V. splendens* (Vieill.). None of the birds sent have any visible trace of white on the wing, and all have the under wing-coverts and base of the quills black. *V. jacarina* does not occur in the West Indies.

***Certhiola godmani*,* sp. nov.**

Male (Type, No. 14,179, Coll. C. B. Cory, Grenada, W. I. J. Grant Wells):—Smaller than *C. saccharina* and slightly darker, more white on the base of the quills, a broad bright yellow patch on the rump, color of the throat and underparts similar to *C. portoricensis*.

Length (skin), 3.88; wing, 2.18; tail, 1.45; tarsus, .62; bill, .48 inch.

C. godmani has the yellow on the underparts brighter and darker yellow than *C. saccharina*; the throat is very much lighter, and the rump shows the bright yellow of the belly, and not the dull olive yellow of *C. saccharina*.

A large series of the black form of *Certhiola* from St. Vincent and Grenada shows slight differences, which are apparently constant. If *C. saccharina* were common to both islands, we should not admit of separating the black forms from Grenada and St. Vincent, as it is quite probable that *C. atrata* represents a melanistic phase of *C. saccharina*, and is not specifically distinct. Should this prove true, the black form from Grenada would be *C. godmani*, but we should hardly be justified in asserting this to be the case without much more knowledge of the birds than we have at present, and I therefore propose the name *Certhiola wellsi* for the black Grenada bird, pending further investigation.

***Certhiola wellsi*†, sp. nov.**

Male (Type coll. C. B. Cory, No. 14,178. Grenada, W. I. J. Grant Wells):—Similar to *C. atrata*, but somewhat smaller. The bill and feet more slender.

Length, 3.65; wing, 2.10; tail, 1.50; tarsus, .65; bill, .46 inch.

* To F. Du Cane Godman, of London, England.

† To J. Grant Wells, of Grenada, West Indies.



Cory, Charles B. 1889. "Notes on West Indian Birds." *The Auk* 6, 218–219.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4066945>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/87790>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4066945>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/90284>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.