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CONTRIBUTION

TO THE

ORNITHOLOGY OF SAN DOMINGO

BY

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CHICAGO, U. S. A.

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FREDERICK J. V. SKIFF,
Director.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF SAN DOMINGO.*

BY GEORGE K. CHERRIE

Under instructions to make a collecting trip to San Domingo during the winter of 1894-95, I embarked from New York, December 22, on a Clyde boat for the tedious voyage to Santo Domingo City, off which port I arrived January 8, 1895.

Steaming slowly into the mouth of the Ozama River we pass close under the historic frowning walls of the old fort—built to guard and protect the “new city”—and where in 1500 Columbus and his brother Bartholomew were imprisoned. Following the river front and joined to the fort is the old wall of the city almost intact. Then loom up, desolate and forsaken, the gray walls of the one time palace of luxury, the seat of elegance, of oriental ease and refinement, the home of Diego Columbus—today overgrown with moss and lichens. Small trees and shrubs have found a foot-hold in the crevices of roof and wall; pigeons find a nesting place and hoards of bats a safe retreat from the light of day.

Custom inspection of my outfit was rather tedious and annoying but I was finally safely on the island with my belongings. Preparations for the interior journey began. Coffee, sugar, rice and beans constituted the bulk of the provisions. Once outside of the city, there are no roads and everything must be transported by pack animals or on men's backs. I purchased two horses. I secured the services of an old negro as guide and servant. On the morning of the 19th of January I was off for the hills. My guide walked behind driving the animal loaded with the provisions, cooking utensils, blankets and hammock. I rode ahead seated between two small trunks—containing light wooden trays for the bird skins—with cotton, skinning tools and gun supplies, which were strapped to my own animal. I followed a northwesterly direction, on leaving San Domingo, over the hills and through the little old historic town of San Carlos, just beyond the walls of the capital, and then over a smooth road without hills but

*I would wish here to express my sincere thanks for many favors received at the hands of Archibald H. Grimke, American Consul in San Domingo, a gentleman who holds America and Americans' interests paramount, who seems to feel he represents a great nation and a great people and sustains the dignity of that people by a manly self-respect and dignity commanding the highest esteem from his own countrymen and from those among whom he is thrown.

that gradually yet steadily carried me to a higher altitude. For seven hours under a burning sun along the divide between the rivers Jaina and Izabel and in that distance and time not one drop of water is seen.

All along the road—all through this part of the country there is a considerable population, yet just where to find a house one can never tell. The road we followed is merely a well-worn path—there are no carts or wagon roads in San Domingo; all freighting is done by pack mules, and here and there you see paths, only a little less well worn, leading to this side or that. If one of these paths be followed it will usually be found to terminate at some sort of human habitation.

A good many people were passed along the road but the only thing characteristic about those I met was the huge pipe the women all carry. It is here the women seem to be the inveterate smokers and a pipe is preferred.

After the first seven hours' ride I crossed a small stream, a tributary of the Izabel. After that the country becomes more broken and one climbs faster. Up to this point there had been no forest and trees were only seen in scattering clusters, far to the right or left in direction of either the Jaina or the Izabel. Now the clumps of trees marking the water course became more common and soon we entered the forest, fringing the foothills of the mountains.

I made Catare my head-quarters from January 21 to February 6 and later from March 2 to March 7. It is at an altitude of about 1,500 feet, just in the foothill of the central mountain range, northwest of San Domingo City.

During the years spent in Central America I constantly wondered why any one could ever speak of the birds of the tropics as being voiceless or songless; but my experience at Catare and in San Domingo in general gave me abundant solution of the problem, and if the popular notion of the songlessness of birds of the tropics comes from observations made in the West Indies, I can easily understand how well it was founded. At Catare, where I did my first collecting, the most striking peculiarity to me about the region was the utter silence of the forest. I would walk for hours and scarce hear a bird note. Birds were common enough, but in the semi-twilight of the forest they flitted noiselessly from branch to branch, restless and active, searching for their insect prey; but all the time not a note or piping sound broke their silence. In the open savannas and along the edges of the forest the mocking birds are almost always singing, but the forest itself is silent—save on those rare occasions when that

wood-spirit, the *Myiadestes*, sets every nerve a-tingling with pleasure, but the *Myiadestes* are rare as their songs.

It may not be without interest to present a few notes from my journal regarding one of my excursions from Catare, which pretty well illustrates the difficulties one encounters in traveling through the country.

Leaving Catare early in the morning I took my way in the direction of Yuna. The road shortly after passing the Jaina River became something awful—it never could have been very good, but the storm of the previous September (1894) blew a great many trees across the path, and these had not been cleared away. Frequently I would have to assist my guide and the two of us would cut a path with our “machetes” for the pack animals. What shiftlessness one sees everywhere. Wherever the road leads through the forest one wades in mud to the knees and in places the poor horses with the packs plunged and pitched terribly as they struggled up some bank out of the many small streams that we crossed. Yet only a very little work would be required to make good roads.

The road follows up the course of one of the tributaries of the Jaina (the Guanaita), crossing and recrossing. In the way several savannas are crossed—bits of grass-grown prairies that would afford pasturage for a great many cattle. The timber lands would all prove good for farming when cleared. There are many splendid woods, and as we climbed higher in the mountains, after leaving the direct course of the river, we found that pines multiplied rapidly and formed the greater part of the trees of the forest.

On this excursion I secured the type specimen of *Elainea cherriei* and my first examples of *Corvus leucognathus*, *Amazona sallaei*, *Blacus hispaniolensis*, *Tyrannus dominicensis*, *Spindalis multicolor* and *Eutheta lepida*.

February 6, my supplies of all kinds being about exhausted and my packing cases for skins full, I began my first return trip to San Domingo City.

After a short rest and a little collecting about San Domingo City, I again took the road for the interior, back through Catare, up and across the central mountain range and down to the head waters of the Vuerto River, a tributary of the Maimon, which latter empties into the Yuna. Here at a point called Aguacate I stopped from February 20 to February 28. It is just at the foot of the mountain divide on the northern slope of the range separating the high plains and prairie table lands of the interior from the Caribbean slope.

My guide and servant became now only a burden to me, being so

sick with fever that he could not walk. I started back toward Santo Domingo City, but on the morning of March 2, arriving at Catate, I found it would be impossible to continue without giving him a rest. On March 7 my packing cases were overflowing with bird skins and the guide being a little better I made another start cityward.

A few days' collecting about San Domingo City, a laying in of a fresh supply of provisions and materials, the securing of my third guide and servant, and I was once more ready for the road.

A day's travel westward from the capital through a rather barren region, but one pretty well populated, carried me to the busiest, or least somnolent, of the inland towns on the Caribbean slope. San Cristobal is located on the Nigua River at the foot of Mount Barbacoa rather pleasantly situated, comparatively a clean place and a light-colored population.

Excursions were made in various directions about San Cristobal, to the summit of Mount Barbacoa—about 7,000 feet altitude—where is to be found the crumbling remains of the walls of an old fort, and to the caves in the sides of the mountain called *El Calabosa*.

I would scarcely know how to describe these caves. There is no grandeur about them and little of beauty. They are only "immense." In going through them, one moment the passage narrows until you can barely squeeze through; again one must get down on hands and knees and crawl, then farther on the passage may widen into an immense vaulted chamber.

In only one of the many caves or series of chambers entered were bats at all common. This chamber called *Cuervo de los Murcielagos* (cave of the bats) was inhabited by thousands upon thousands of these symbols of the diabolical. When they were disturbed by our entrance, and by my firing several shots, the noise made by the countless wings gave one as a first sensation the peculiar feeling attendant on a slight earthquake shock. The floor of this chamber was covered with a thick layer of manure. Two species of bats were found inhabiting these caves, and a Roof Rat was shot far from the entrance in another.*

I spent a night on Mount Barbacoa at the rancho of a "peon" and here met with hospitality for the first time in the island. When I offered to pay for my night's lodging I was surprised at being told I owed only *su buena voluntad de U!* (only your good wishes!)

At this point my guide was taken sick and I was delayed for a few days, but securing another man I was again on the road March

*A list of the mammals collected on the expedition will be published by Prof. D. G. Elliot, of the Field Col. Mus.

28, moving farther westward in the road to Maniel and Loma Tina, the latter the highest mountain peak in the West Indies.

After leaving San Cristobal, the road as far as the crossing of the Nisao River and a little beyond, winds through a very pleasant country, pretty well populated, splendid land and all fairly well cultivated. Then commences a barren stretch of country, with no vegetation except scrub timber, and a very scanty population until one reaches the little town of Bani. Beyond this point the country becomes even more barren and cheerless. The road is hemmed in with giant cacti, while other and smaller species are scattered on all sides in greatest profusion. The road itself is very stony and rough, but not very steep. There is absolutely no water along this road and one travels for near an entire day over a dry, sandy, cacti-covered desert. We passed one little village called Calabasa—a collection of half a dozen houses—the occupants of which bring their water for miles.

At Honduras, where I arrived late one evening, there is water. The little creek Arroyo Bahia here shows itself for a short distance and is then again lost in the sand of the desert.

I collected at Honduras from March 29 to April 2. Here I secured the two first specimens of *Hyetornis fieldi* Cory, and later at Maniel the type specimen. Also the first examples of *Euphonia musica* I met with were secured here. Five days at Honduras and my record for the time was 210 bird skins.

On the morning of April 3 I started northwestward through the hills toward Maniel, far up in the mountains near the head of the river Ocoa. It is a very rough road one must come over,—not so much for the hills as for the stones and boulders that one must get over somehow. For the greater part of the distance the road follows the bed of the river, walled in almost as a cañon. I crossed the river thirty-two times in reaching Maniel. While here I made an effort to reach Loma Tina but was unable to find a competent guide, and this coupled with the fact that I found all paths up the mountain completely blocked caused me to abandon the idea. I remained at this point for six days and then having my packing cases full started for San Domingo City. My trip to Maniel was the last excursion made to any considerable distance from San Domingo City.

From the localities above referred to, short excursions were made into the surrounding country on all sides. But always and everywhere I went I found travel and moving from one point to another exceedingly difficult, attended with much labor and inconvenience. Although I was in San Domingo during the "dry season" it was not

“dry,” and I think it rained on an average of at least every third day during my stay. The roads, if cattle paths through the forests over the mountains and across the prairies are worthy of the name, were uniformly bad.

Throughout the interior of the island hospitality is an almost unknown virtue among the people, and no opportunity to impose upon or take advantage of the traveler or foreigner is permitted to pass.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS COLLECTED.

1. *Turdus aliciae*, *Baird*.—Single specimens were noted on three occasions; twice high up in the mountains—above Aguacate—on the 22d and 25th of February and one at San Domingo City, on the coast, May 1. All were males and extremely fat.

2. *Mimocichla ardesiaca* (*Vicill.*). RUISEÑOR DE CIERRA; CANELO—Found everywhere on the coast and high up in the interior. Not at all uncommon, but always and everywhere found it was very shy and difficult to approach. In freshly killed specimens the eye is red-brown, eyelids, bill, feet and legs light Indian Red, tip of bill and claws dusky. Thirty-five specimens were secured. The song is quite similar to that of *Merula migratorius* and in almost every action recalls to one's mind the American Robin.

3. *Myadestes montanus*? *Cory.* JILGUERO—This species is evidently nowhere common, and is only found high up in the mountains. It is very shy and retiring in its habits. The natives are almost all acquainted with the song; but if my memory serves me rightly I did not meet with one who was sure he had ever seen the bird. It is held in superstitious fear by many, who believe that to see this "spirit of the wood" were surely the forerunner of some great calamity, or death itself. Everyone was much surprised that I could shoot the bird, they believing it could not be killed. Where or how such strange beliefs could have originated I have no idea, because as a singer the *jilguero*, to me, stands without an equal. Sweeter music I never listened to. It has an indescribable charm—notes so liquid—clear as a bell, and drawn out with such a cadence of melody. For a moment the sound seems to come from this way and then from that, and ever the singer holds you spell-bound: Do you seek the source of that wondrous voice, it is all in vain. There is only the monotony of green leaves everywhere. There is no other sound only the thrilling of every chord of the imagination by notes so sweet they hold you enthralled. It is indeed a "spirit" of all that is lovable, of all that is good. But I despair of writing any description of a song so beautiful, or of the sensations or thoughts it inspires.

I have heard the song at early morning, at midday and in the evening. At Aguacate where I secured seven of the ten specimens collected, the mating season was evidently just beginning. On two occasions I had opportunity of watching the birds while busy with their love affairs. In every movement and action they brought to mind our Bluebird, when in the same happy mood. There was a like peculiar raising and flitting of the wings, evidently a joyousness of spirit that would not be controlled.

In a freshly killed bird the eye is dark brown, legs and feet yellowish, claws dusky, bill black. I found this species only in the deep dark forest, never in the open. The food consists of both fruit and insects. The latter are often taken on the wing.

Ten specimens were secured by me, three from Catate and seven from Aguacate. In the series there is slight yet quite noticeable individual variation in the shade of tawny chestnut on the under tail coverts and crissum; and also in the extent of this color over the lower parts. In one of the specimens from Catate the color is confined almost entirely to the under tail coverts, while in another from Aguacate the entire crissum is tawny with bits of color extending over the breast almost to the chestnut of the throat. In all of the specimens there is a faint olive shading in the back—in some a few olive-tipped feathers. These olive-tipped feathers I am much inclined to think are remnants of the first plumage.

All of my San Domingo specimens differ considerably from the type of *M. montanus* from Hayti, more in fact than they do from the Lesser Antillian form *M. sanctæ-luciæ*. However the type and only example of *M. montanus* is so badly mutilated that satisfactory comparison with other specimens is impossible, and while the differences are apparently of such character as to warrant a separation, making an eastern and a western form for the island, the absence of material for adequate comparison from Hayti compels me to merely call attention to the apparent and most obvious differences.

M. montanus has no white spot on the chin, and the rictal streak is pale reddish-brown. In my specimens from San Domingo the chin and the rictal streak are both white.

4. *Minus dominicus* (Linn.). RUISEÑOR—One hundred and five specimens of this mocking bird were collected. It was found at almost all points visited, but was most abundant near the coast, and apparently has a preference for inhabited neighborhoods.

Several broods are reared each season, as about San Domingo City I secured young birds just from the nest as early as March 18 and as late as May 2, while on the latter date a female was collected

while in the act of carrying nesting material, and the condition of the abdomen indicated that she had been brooding. In different localities the nesting season varies, and I imagine must be in great part governed by the food supply which again is controlled by the rains. At Honduras, during the last days of March and the first of April, nesting had not yet begun. Honduras lying as it does in the sandy cacti-covered arid belt probably depends, more than other localities, on the rains for the awakening of its insect life.

Adult birds in life have the eye clay yellow, bill, claws, feet and legs black.

5. *Mniotilta varia*. (Linn.)—Only nine specimens were secured between the dates of January 22 and April 21. Not at any time observed to be common.

6. *Compsothlypis americana* (Linn.)—Eighteen specimens were secured. Noted at all points visited except Maniel, but not seen after April 2.

7. *Dendroica tigrina* (Gmel.)—Twenty-one specimens. Found at all points visited, but none seen after April 6.

8. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Gmel.)—Forty-nine examples collected. Found at all points visited and decidedly the most common of the North American birds.

9. *Dendroica coronata* (Linn.)—Not common, and none seen after March 27.

10. *Dendroica discolor*. (Vicill.)—Noted between the dates of February 13 and April 2, but not common at any time.

11. *Dendroica palmarum* (Gmel.)—Tolerably common between the 12th of February and the 1st of April.

12. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Linn.)—Not uncommon. Found at all points visited.

13. *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Gmel.)—Rare. Seen on two occasions only, February 24 and March 16. This is, I believe, the first record from San Domingo.

14. *Seiurus motacilla* (Vicill.)—Rare. Only a single specimen taken January 22.

15. *Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.)—None were noted during January, and the first specimen secured was on February 2. There was a steady increase in numbers until the middle of March when the species might have been said to be common. There was no appreciable diminution in numbers up to the time of my sailing, May 8.

16. *Micrologia palustris* Cory.—Rare and apparently not found in the interior or on the higher altitudes of the coast district. Frequents the dense thickets, preferably about the swamps, and feeds, I believe, exclusively on insects, in its search for which the actions much resemble those of a *Vireo*. If the bird has a song I did not hear it, and the only voice is a short contented "cheep," as the little hunter goes in and out among the leaves. It is not at all shy, very readily approached. A breeding female was taken at San Domingo City, April 30. Altogether eight specimens were secured, five from San Domingo City and three from Honduras.

17. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.)—Tolerably common, and seen at all points visited.

18. *Coereba bananivora* (Gmel.)—Common, but rather shy and not readily approached. Found on the coast and high up in the mountains, deep in the forest and on the edges of clearings. Has a short little song consisting of some half dozen notes, repeated over and over in the same order.

I found this species nesting at San Domingo City, February 15. Both male and female worked at carrying nesting material.

In the series of forty-four specimens before me all the variations in color due to age are well shown. From young birds that are above nearly uniform dusky gray-brown, with yellowish superciliary stripe, and soiled olive yellowish below with a bit of bright yellow in center of breast, we have every intergradation to the fully adult plumage, of dull black above, white superciliary, dark slate-gray throat, bright yellow center of breast and abdomen and grayish olive sides.

19. *Petrochelidon fulva* (Vieill.)—Quite abundant along the coast but not noted in the interior. At San Domingo City breeding birds were taken as early as April 24, and during the same week nesting seemed to be at its height. The nests were all being lined with the soft cottony-like material (called in Spanish America "Balsamo"), that grows in catkins and surrounds the minute seeds of one of the native trees of the country. The birds were going and

coming after this material in a continuous stream. Ordinarily a mouthful was snatched while on the wing, but sometimes the birds would alight and deliberately take all they could conveniently hold in the bill and then fly away. The males accompanied the females, but beyond this encouragement seemed to give no other aid in the work.

20. *Vireo calidris* (Linn.). JULIAN CHIVI—One of the most abundant species met with. The song is somewhat like that of the Red-eyed Vireo. One hundred and forty-five specimens were secured and I believe all are typical *calidris*.

21. *Dulus dominicus* (Linn.). SIGUA DE PALMA—Gregarious and abundant at almost all points visited. The nests are tremendous affairs, invariably (?) placed in the tops of the Royal Palms, built of relatively large sticks and twigs. A number of females use the same nests, and there are many entrances to the interior. I did not have opportunity to examine a nest closely, so do not know the internal structure.

22. *Euphonia musica* (Gmel.)—Rare. Eight specimens were taken at Honduras and one at Maniel. Not seen at any other points. Although quite conspicuous for its colors I did not meet with any of the natives who had ever seen the bird. I did not hear the song.

23. *Spindalis multicolor* (Vieill.)—Rare, and apparently unknown to the natives. Taken and observed only at Catara and Aguacate. Four adult males, two adult females and four young males, in transition plumage from that of the female to that of the male, constitute the list of specimens collected. All the specimens secured by me were taken in old overgrown clearings where the birds were feeding on some sort of a berry that was ripe at the time (January and February).

Young males resemble the females, but are slightly grayer above and lighter below, with a white chin and throat. In assuming the plumage of the adult male the feathers of the crown first begin to blacken, the white throat is gradually replaced by orange yellow, while brownish-chestnut feathers appear on the gurgulum, and the dusky or olive grayish feathers, with black shaft streaks, of the breast are crowded out by orange yellow ones. White feathers begin to appear and form a superciliary streak, and the lores and auriculars together with the patch on the side of the throat grows black. In none of the four young males before me are the two outer pair of rectrices marked with white as in the adult.

The adult female is dusky olive green above shading into rather bright yellowish green on the rump and upper tail coverts—this yellowish green color is not perceptible on the nape as it is in females of *S. portoricensis*. Below ashy, palest on lower breast and abdomen, the under tail coverts whitish and all bathed with a yellowish olive shading and indistinctly streaked with dusky brown. The outer pair of rectrices are edged with white for the terminal third on the inner webs, and the second pair are tipped with the same color on the inner webs. There is no sign of dull yellow on the breast of my specimens.

Birds freshly killed have the eye dark brown; feet and legs dusky plumbeous; claws, maxilla and tip of the mandible, black; base of mandible, plumbeous black.

24. *Phoenicophilus palmarum* (Linn.). SIGUA MAIMONERA; SIGUA AMARILLA—Probably the most abundant species to be met with in San Domingo. Two hundred and twenty-one specimens were secured with representatives from all the localities visited. However, after one ascends pretty well up into the mountains this bird becomes comparatively rare. I found this species chiefly in the forests where it may be looked for with equal success in the low bushes or high up among the tree tops. It feeds both on fruit and insects. It has, I believe, no song, but a somewhat Cat-bird-like note of alarm.

Females resemble the males, and young birds are similar to the adults, except that the black of the head is replaced by dusky grayish or slate color, and the entire head, neck and breast washed with olive yellowish.

A good many breeding birds were taken, but I was not fortunate in finding either the nest or eggs, and nothing was learned of the breeding habits.

25. *Calyptophilus frugivorus*, Cory.—Rare, seen only at Aguacate where three specimens were secured, two males and a female. It may have been less rare than I suspected, because for some time I confounded this with the preceding species. Early every morning before it was fairly light I had the habit of going down to the river, nearly a quarter of a mile from where I had my camp, and I had remarked with some surprise that at this place (Aguacate) *Phoenicophilus palmarum* seemed to have a pleasant early morning song. In the gray of the morning I had noted the bird in the bushes at the side of the path, but always mistook it for *palmarum*, until on the morning of February 26 something prompted me to commence

my collecting earlier than usual. The result was that when I picked up my specimen I recognized I had *Calyptophilus*. I had seen and heard the bird every morning prior to that time, and three were taken on that date, but none were seen afterward. The song from *Calyptophilus* was the first sound to herald the approach of day (the mocking bird did not begin his song for half or three-quarters of an hour later), but once the sun was fairly up that song was hushed until another day.

In none of the three specimens is there any sign of a yellow spot in the center or on the sides of the breast.

26. *Pyrrhulagra violacea* (Linn.)—CHICHIGUA; SIGUA NEGRA; SIGUA PRIETA. Tolerably common at San Domingo City, Catare and Aguacate, but not noted at the other localities visited. Seventy-five specimens were taken, forty-seven of these were males, twenty-seven were females and one in which the sex was not determined.

Referring to the females of this species, Professor Cory remarks (Auk, Vol. VIII, 1891, p. 296), that they assume "a black plumage similar to the males." And later, Mr. W. E. D. Scott in his "Observations on the Birds of Jamaica" (Auk, Vol. X, 1893, p. 180), says, "In a large series before me there are many females quite as brightly colored as the more intense males, and indistinguishable from that sex in its highest plumage by any external features of color or appearance." With both of these statements I concur in the main, but in my series there are thirty-two males and nine females in the black dress. I do not think the brightest colored female compares on the back with the least richly *glossy* back among the males. Neither does the chestnut of the throat seem so extended in the females. However, these are only very minor differences, and the birds in the field are indistinguishable.

I have ten males and twelve females in mixed plumage, varying from birds in an almost completely black dress to others having only a few scattering black feathers about the head. There are five males and six females not showing any black in plumage. Some of these have a russet throat patch pretty well developed. In one of the males in mixed plumage, the chestnut feathers of the throat are all black tipped. The throat and under tail coverts in both males and females in the black dress are a bright chestnut. Birds in mixed dress usually have the throat a trifle paler, approaching nearer to a russet, but becomes more chestnut and brighter in proportion as the black extends through the plumage. The color of both the throat (if the patch is yet at all developed) and the under tail coverts in specimens without any black in the plumage is pale russet.

The under tail coverts do not begin to become chestnut until the general plumage is black. The russet supra loreal streak and under tail coverts, apparently are characters from the nestling plumage.

Two breeding females were taken April 21 and 29; one is in the black dress and one in mixed plumage.

The Chichigua I found shy and retiring in habits, frequenting low thick underbrush. Often noted feeding on fruits and again on the ground scratching among the dead leaves after insects.

27. *Loximitris dominicensis* (Bryant). Nine specimens of this rare bird were secured at Aguacate and Catare. It was not noted in other localities. Adult males and females, and immature of both sexes, are represented in the nine examples before me.

The adult female has the head and back dull olive, lightly mottled with dusky brownish, the rump and upper tail coverts are a little brighter olive and without any mottling. The quills are all narrowly margined with bright olive yellow. The greater, middle and lesser coverts are margined with the dull olive of the back; but the greater and middle coverts are also broadly tipped with light olive yellow, forming two distinct wing bands. All the rectrices are blackish brown, narrowly margined with yellowish on the inner webs.

Below the throat, upper breast and sides is dusky olive gray; belly and crissum whitish, and all mottled with blackish brown shaft streakings. Under tail coverts broadly marked with blackish shaft streaks.

Immature males and females are similar to adult females, but brighter olive (yellow) above and decidedly yellowish, or yellowish olive, in place of grayish or whitish below.

28. *Euetheia lepida* (Jacq.). JUANA MARUCA—Tolerably common, especially near the coast. Observed at all points visited except Honduras.

29. *Euetheia bicolor* (Linn.). JUANA MARUCA—Common. Seen and collected at all the localities that I passed through.

30. *Icterus dominicensis* (Linn.). SIGUA CANARIA—Quite common, but not found in the forest districts except where there has been considerable clearing, and is most abundant in the savannas. Males and females are alike in plumage and both sing. One individual that I secured, while but slightly wounded, gave a splendid exhibition of its power of song as a result of, or under the influence of,

excitement and pain. A native boy I had with me begged to have the bird, and for several hours, while he was carrying it in his hand, the little creature sang almost continuously.*

This species is frequently kept as a cage bird.

In the series of forty-eight skins secured there are twenty-seven males and twenty-one females; twenty-eight are in the black plumage of the fully adult bird, the remainder are in mixed plumage.

31. *Quiscalus niger* (Bodd.). CHINCHILING—Comparatively few birds of this species were seen. Only thirteen specimens were collected, all coming from three localities, Catare, Aguacate and San Domingo City. None were seen at the other localities visited. The eye is light straw yellow.

32. *Corvus leucognaphalus* Daud. CUERVO—The relative scarcity or abundance of this species in any locality depends chiefly on the season and on the ripening of certain fruits on which they feed. Immense flocks are found together. They are very noisy, but the call note is very different from anything I have heard before. The flesh is good eating, having a very pleasant flavor, much like that of certain species of wild pigeons.

The eye in some examples I found to be light red brown, and in others a bright orange red.

33. *Corvus solitarius* Wurt. CAO—Seen only at Maniel, where great noisy flocks were found together. The cry differs somewhat from that of the preceding species, and resembles more the chattering of some species of parrots.

34. *Elainia cherriei* Cory†—Only three specimens of this new flycatcher were secured. The type, a male, was taken at Catare January 31, and two females, taken higher up in the mountains, at Aguacate, on the 22d and 27th of February respectively.

The female is exactly similar to the male.

No individuals were seen except the three that were collected.

35. *Pitangus gabbii* Lawr.—Only one specimen collected. Taken at Honduras, April 2. Not noted at other points.

Bill, legs and feet black; eye dusky.

36. *Blacicus hispaniolensis* (Bryant.)—Found distributed in all the localities visited by me, but far more common high up in

*Mr. Chapman, in his "Notes on Birds and Mammals, Observed near Trinidad, Cuba," gives a similar instance of "song as a result of excitement" in the case of *Icterus hypomelas*. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 306.

†Auk, Vol. XII, 1895, p. 279.

the mountains than down near the coast. Frequents the low scrub timber; seldom seen more than fifteen or twenty feet from the ground. Sometimes found deep in the dark forest and again in the low trees far out on the savannas.

37. *Myiarchus dominicensis* *Bryant*. MANUELITA; CABE-
SON—Tolerably common. Observed in all the localities visited,
but most common near the coast. Fifty-three specimens were
secured.

38. *Tyrannus dominicensis* (*Gmel.*). PE-TIGRE—Twenty-
three specimens were collected. Apparently not common.

39. *Antrostomus carolinensis* (*Gm.*). QUIERO-BEBER; QUE-
RE-BE-BE.—Only one specimen collected, Catare, February 3, but
often heard on clear evenings.

40. *Chaetura zonaris* (*Shaw*).—One specimen was taken at
San Domingo City. Great flocks were often observed sailing about,
especially toward dusk, but ordinarily they were out of range. This
is, I believe, the first record of a specimen of this species having
been actually taken in San Domingo.

41. *Lampornis dominicus* (*Linn.*). ZUMBADOR, DOCTOR BIRD—
Tolerably common at all localities visited.

42. *Mellisuga minima* (*Linn.*). ZUMBADORCITO — Common
enough but very difficult to collect. In the first place, one is shoot-
ing at an exceedingly small mark, and next, if your bird does fall, the
chances are greatly against your finding the little bunch of feathers
amid the thicket of leaves in the dense undergrowth that everywhere
covers the ground. Both the male and female "sing," their favorite
resort for this performance seeming to be the topmost branch of some
dead leafless tree-top, where, for long intervals, the birds may be
seen and heard. The head seems to be thrown back and turned from
side to side, with a rather short, quick jerky movement as the sharp,
high-pitched "cheep-cheep-cheep" notes are uttered in quick suc-
cession.

43. *Sporadinus elegans* (*Vieill.*). ZUMBADOR—This species
of humming bird was not common, and was only observed in two
localities, Catare and Aguacate. I collected sixteen specimens. All
were taken in the darkest parts of the forest, low down, from six to
ten feet from the ground. The two foregoing species seem to like

bright sunshine and high up at the edges of clearings or in the open. But the present species was not once seen beyond the confines of the endless shade of the thick forest.

44. *Temnotrogon roseigaster* (Vieill.). CALANDRE—I only found the San Domingo Trogon in one locality, Aguacate. These eight specimens were collected high up in the mountains; all are adult.

45. *Crotophaga ani* Linn. JUDIO—Common.

46. *Saurothera dominicensis* Lafr. BOBO.—One of the most abundant and conspicuous of the birds of San Domingo, found everywhere from the coast to the tops of the mountains, and apparently as common in one locality as in another. Eighty specimens were collected, with examples from all the points visited.

47. *Coccyzus americanus* (Linn.)—This is, I believe, the first record of the finding of the yellow-billed Cuckoo in San Domingo. It is probably not a permanent resident, as no individuals were seen or heard until the first of May, when it suddenly became common at Santo Domingo City. Here, in three days, the 2d, 3d and 4th of May, I collected ten specimens, five males and five females. While I can not consider the bird a resident, it is somewhat curious that in all of the females collected the ovaries were considerably enlarged and the oviduct more or less swollen, while in one example I took an egg from the oviduct that would have been deposited in one or two days! Evidently *C. americanus* breeds in San Domingo, but do birds that breed here ever come as far north as the United States?

48. *Coccyzus minor* (Gmel.). MONTERO—This bird is only tolerably common in the coast district, while back in the interior I did not meet with it above an altitude of between six and eight hundred feet.

49. *Hyetornis fieldi** Cory.—Five specimens of this handsome new cuckoo were collected; two came from Honduras and three from Maniel. It was not observed in any other locality. I was unable to make any notes in regard to the habits of the new bird, owing to the fact that on the three occasions on which individuals were seen, and when the five examples were secured, I was kept out of breath tearing through the underbrush trying to keep my bird in sight. But in manner of flight and in the peculiar way of running along the limbs of the trees, where it alights, one is impressed with the similarity to

**Hyetornis fieldi* sp. nov. Cory, Auk., Vol. XII, 1895, p. 278.

Piaya cayana mehleri of Central America, where the latter bird is known as Pajaro Ardilla (squirrel bird). From my note book, under date of March 29, being the first morning I had met with *H. fieldi*, I take the following observation: The notes or call is very different from that of any of the cuckoos with which I am familiar, and I can only liken it to the croaking of some hoarse frog.

In fresh specimens the maxilla and point of the mandible is black; eye dusky; feet, legs and basal part of mandible plumbeous.

The females seem to average a little larger than the males as indicated by the measurements of the five specimens given here-with:

Field Museum Catalogue No.	Sex.	Locality.	Tail.	Wing.	Tarsus.	Exposed Culmen.
1436	♀	Maniel, S. D.	11.50	7.25	1.63	1.70
1439	♀	Honduras, S. D.	10.50	6.75	1.65	1.50
1437*	♂	Maniel, S. D.	10.50	6.50	1.50	1.30
1438	♂	Maniel, S. D.	10.00	6.25	1.50	1.30
1440	♂	Honduras, S. D.	10.25	6.25	1.33	1.30

All the species of cuckoos found in San Domingo are esteemed a table delicacy by the natives, and for the sick the flesh of the "Bobo" or "Mantero" is a sure cure.

50. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.)—The Belted Kingfisher was frequently seen along the water courses near the coast.

51. *Todus angustirostris* Lafr. PAJARO VERDE.—Quite abundant, especially at points visited in the interior.

52. *Todus subulatus* Gould. PAJARO VERDE—This, the larger of the two forms of Todies in San Domingo, is even more abundant than the preceding species, and is more evenly distributed, apparently being equally common both on the coast and in the interior.

With both species the food appears to consist exclusively of insects. The prey is usually, if not always, taken on the wing, after the manner of a true flycatcher. Large insects are held in the bill, and their little captor hammers its victims on the branch chosen for a resting place until the legs are broken off and the hard parts of the body are so broken up as to not interfere with swallowing.

53. *Nesocittes micromegas* (Sundev.). CARPINTERO—Twenty-five specimens of this little woodpecker were taken, but it is far from being a common species. It was only observed at San

*Type.

Domingo City, Catare and Aguacate. While not particularly watchful and shy the inconspicuous colors and somewhat modest and retiring habits and notes rarely heard render this one of the least noticeable of San Domingo's woodland birds. In actions this species is often very like some of the warblers, being also of about the same size. It hops along the limbs and explores nooks and crevices between the branches seemingly to prefer being right side up, yet when occasion requires it will be seen diligently working away on the underside of some limb. Sometimes this little "carpenter" would be seen at the very tops of the forest trees, where I could only identify my bird by the use of my field glasses, and again I would find him hopping about in the brushwood a few inches from the ground.

In freshly killed specimens the eye is sometimes carmine, sometimes reddish brown; the feet and legs are olive plumbeous; bill dusky with the lower mandible plumbeous at the base.

54. *Chloronerpes striatus* (Müll.). CARPINTERO—One of the most abundant birds in San Domingo, equally distributed both in the mountainous and coast districts. This species was the subject of many complaints from the natives, from the country people, all declaring that it was impossible to have oranges and "carpinteros" at the same time. As soon as the oranges show the least sign of ripening they are immediately attacked by the woodpeckers, and in a very short time there is nothing remains but a shrivelling, "bloodless" orange peel. This woodpecker is also very destructive to the Royal Palm—a fact adding greatly to his already bad name—filling the green growing trunk so full of holes as finally to cause its death. This bird seems to make its nest by preference in the stems of the Royal Palm, and, in fact, I do not now remember having seen a woodpecker hole in any other species of tree while in San Domingo. But in addition to nesting in the Royal Palm, a great many holes are drilled apparently without any view toward housekeeping, or certainly with no other object than filling the pantry. *C. striatus* is a sap sucker and taps the Royal Palm for his beverage.

The eye in life is orange yellow.

55. *Conurus chloropterus* (Souancé). PERIQUITO — While from the accounts of the natives the San Domingo Paroquet must at some seasons be very abundant, yet I saw very few, and only four specimens were taken. It is gregarious and its presence or absence at any particular time or place depends probably on the food supply, which is again controlled by the seasons which vary much in different parts of the island.

56. *Amazona sallaei* (Scl.). COTORRO—The presence or absence of this species, as with the preceding, in particular locality or time must depend chiefly, if not wholly, on seasonal changes as influencing the food supply. It is gregarious and very noisy, but at the same time very watchful and only approached with difficulty and extreme caution. I saw several flocks that must have contained at least 500 individuals each.

This species is quite a good deal sought after by the natives for food.

57. *Speotyto cunicularia dominicensis* Cory.—Tu-cu. Only a single specimen of Burrowing Owl was secured. This was taken in the barren, cacti-covered region about Honduras. The inhabitants informed me it was quite common, but I did not again meet with the species.

58. *Rupornis ridgwayi* Cory. GUARAGUAO — Although no examples were secured I frequently saw this hawk sailing about over the tree tops or perched on some inaccessible crag or dead branch in the mountains or along the streams.

If the stories of the natives are to be relied upon this species is a great chicken thief.

59. *Accipiter fringilloides* Vig. GUARAGUAO DE CIERRO; SAN NICOLA; HARPON—Among the natives I found as many names for this handsome little hawk as I secured specimens. I learned nothing regarding the habits save from the stomach contents of my three specimens, which indicated a somewhat varied taste, parts of large insects, small lizard's and bird's feet and feathers being mixed together.

My three skins include an adult male and female and a young male.

The bird described and figured by Professor Cory in his "Birds of Hayti and San Domingo" and again described in the "Birds of the West Indies," is a *young* female. The adult female is quite different and as I believe no detailed description of the adult of this species has appeared, at least not in English since that made by Mr. Lawrence in May, 1860 (Annals of the New York Lyceum of Natural History) it may not be out of place to here append the descriptions of my specimens.

Adult female, No. 1843, Field Columbian Museum. Honduras, San Domingo, W. I., April 2, 1895: Above bluish slate color, slightly darker on the head. Concealed bases of feathers of the back *not*

marked with white. Tail brownish plumbeous crossed by four, not very clearly defined, dusky bands (five showing on the outermost pair of rectrices) and narrowly tipped with white. The primaries and greater wing coverts are dusky brownish with a shading of slate or plumbeous. The sides of the head (below the eye) and neck are light chestnut brown without markings. Chin and throat whitish, with a very light shading of brownish chestnut, and the shafts of the feathers dusky brownish or blackish. The remaining lower parts are white transversely marked with narrow wood brown bands on the breast, belly, sides of body and tibiae; thickest and most sharply defined on the upper breast, becoming farther apart and less distinct posteriorly, finally disappearing on the crissum and under tail coverts, which are immaculate. The under surface of the wing is white barred with dusky brown. In the fresh bird the bill is dusky at tip and plumbeous at the base; cere, legs and feet olive green; eye lemon yellow; claws black.

Wing, 7.10; tail, 6.50; tarsus, 2.00.

Adult male. No. 1842, Field Columbian Museum. Honduras, San Domingo, W. I., April 2, 1895. Similar to the female, but colors brighter, and the transverse banding below is in rather bright chestnut instead of wood brown. The male is considerably smaller, as shown by the following measurements:

Wing, 6.12; tail, 5.40; tarsus, 1.80.

Young male. No. 1841, Field Columbian Museum. Catara, San Domingo, W. I., Feb. 6, 1895. Above, dusky brownish, the feathers tipped and edged with russet. Feathers of the hind neck marked with white basally; feathers of the back *without* concealed white markings. Sides of face and neck buffy brownish streaked with dusky brownish or blackish shaft lines. Chin and upper throat whitish with a slightly buffy shading marked with dusky brownish shaft lines. Remaining lower parts white marked with irregular longitudinal shaft streaks of a dark wood brown color, and that becoming narrower and finally obsolete along the sides and lower breast. The crissum and under tail coverts are pure white. The tibiae are transversely barred with dusky brownish.

Wing, 5.85; tail, 5.25; tarsus, 1.80.

60. *Falco dominicensis Gmel.*—Individuals probably belonging to this species were frequently seen while riding over the savannas, but none were collected.

61. *Columba leucocephala Linn.*—Immense numbers of the White-headed Pigeon were being brought into the markets of San Domingo City during the first week of May.

62. *Columba corensis* *Gmel.*—This species is most abundant in the mountainous districts, rarely, if ever, descending to the coast. It is the largest of the pigeons found on the island, and is much sought after for food; but from being constantly hunted it has become very shy and difficult to approach.

In life the eyelids and eye are yellowish orange red; base of bill, feet and legs maroon.

63. *Zenaidura macroura* (*Linn.*). PALOMA COLITA—The Mourning Dove was not at all uncommon in the vicinity of San Cristobal, Honduras and Maniel.

64. *Zenaida zenaida* (*Bonap.*). ROLON—This handsome species is resident and quite common in San Domingo in the coast districts, but I believe is never found in the high interior.

65. *Melopelia leucoptera* (*Linn.*)—I secured a single specimen of the White-winged Dove high up in the mountains at the top of Mount "La Laguneta." Several others were seen in the same locality.

66. *Columbigallina passerina* (*Linn.*)—Quite common, especially near the coast.

67. *Geotrygon montana* (*Linn.*)—Tolerably common, but I never met with "flocks," as is indicated by Professor Cory, in "Birds of Hayti and San Domingo," p. 132. Very rarely did I find more than two together, and ordinarily individuals were found singly. It is more abundant in the higher altitudes and rarely met with near the coast.

68. *Geotrygon martinica* (*Gmel.*)—I saw a single example of this beautiful dove that had been killed by a native at Aguacate. However, as the bird did not come under my observation until after a good share of the feathers had been removed, I did not secure a specimen.

69. *Colinus cubanensis* (*Gundl.*)—The Cuban Quail was introduced into San Domingo by an American sugar planter by the name of Bass, about six years ago. It has increased very rapidly, and now for a good many miles around San Domingo City flocks of from ten to twenty-five are frequently met with.

Unfortunately, the mongoose has been imported from Jamaica and it is probable that in a short time the quail will succumb to this pest.

70. *Ædinemus dominicensis* Cory. BOUKARA—Frequently met with in the houses of the natives, where they are kept to destroy the scorpions, centipedes, cockroaches, etc.

71. *Ægialitis vocifera* (Linn.)—During my stay in San Domingo I found the Killdee fairly common along the water courses near the coast, and indeed it is probably a resident breeding bird. The ovaries and oviducts of specimens taken during March indicated that the birds were breeding and I took a nearly fully developed egg from the oviduct of one killed March 24.

72. *Totanus solitarius* (Wils.)—Met with on two occasions only, March 16 and April 27, near San Domingo City along the Ozama River.

73. *Actitis macularia* (Linn.)—Noted at all the points visited, but not common.

74. *Ardea herodias* Linn.—Individuals were frequently noted along the shores of the Ozama River, near San Domingo City, but none were collected.

75. *Ardea cærulea* Linn.—Only one specimen was collected, but it is not uncommon along many of the water courses, especially near the coast.

76. *Ardea virescens* Linn.—MARTINETE. Quite common in all suitable localities.

77. *Nycticorax violacens* (Linn.)—Seen on several occasions near San Domingo City on the Ozama River.

78. *Jacana spinosa* (Linn.)—Quite common along the Ozama River. Young downy birds were found with the parents April 26.

In freshly killed birds the shield, spurs and bill are orange yellow; base of maxilla blue gray; eye dusky; feet and legs dusky olive.

79. *Fulica americana* Gmel.—Frequently seen near the river banks and along the lagoons.

80. *Dendrocygna arborea* (Linn.). YAGUASA—This is a resident species and not uncommon in some localities.

81. *Pelecanus fuscus* *Linn.*—Quite a good many were seen in the bay of Samana, but not noted at any other point along the coast.

82. *Phaethon flavirostris* *Brandt.*—Frequently seen along the coast. It is resident. April 19 two young birds and an adult female were brought to me at San Domingo City.

83. *Podilymbus podiceps* (*Linn.*)—One specimen was taken on the Ozama River, near San Domingo City, April 26, and quite a number were seen. This is, I believe, the first record of this species having been taken in San Domingo or Hayti.