pie, have at all times been objects of superstition to the common people.

“Setting aside the peculiar shape of its beak, the *Crotophaga* resembles the *Corvidæ* further in some points of its outer appearance. Its form and graceful motions when gliding through between the branches of the trees and shrubs or when on the wing remind us of the genera *Pica* and *Garrulus*; at the base of the bill we observe setaceous feathers, a character of the *Corvinæ*; the fourth quill is the longest, colour entirely black, glossed with violet reflexions like the genus *Corvus*. The flesh has a disagreeable odour; nevertheless I have been informed that this does not deter some of the negroes from eating them; and I have been more than once told, that they are used as substitutes for pigeons or rooks in pies.

“I agree perfectly with Mr. Kirk that they do not build their nest on the ground; it is generally built in the fork of trees: but although the construction of the nest resembles that of the *Corvidæ*, it is built at a less height from the ground. I cannot substantiate by ocular evidence that they breed in community, but I have heard it always asserted of the larger species (*C. major*). The Indians have told me on inquiry, that in the nest of the smaller species, which you call *C. rugirostra*, they find only from five to seven eggs; but in those of the larger they are so numerous that they fill a whole calabash. The Indians, at least the Warraus and Arawaks, eat these eggs; and their evidence that they take such a large number of eggs from the nests of *C. major*, confirms the belief that they use a common nest. Sororeng, one of the Indians who has accompanied me to London, and who served me as interpreter during the last expedition, assures me that he has seen three birds of the larger species (*C. major*) which they call *Woworima*, sitting in one nest; and on asking him how many eggs he saw in the nest, he designated the number by pointing to the number of his fingers and his toes.

“I have noted both species (*C. major* and *Ani rugirostra*?) along the rivers of Guiana; they are therefore not peculiar to savannahs. When ascending the rivers Essequibo, Parima, Rio Branco, Orinoco, &c. we observed them frequently along the woody banks of these rivers: disturbed by the noise of our

canoes, they sounded their shrill notes, and followed in short flights from shrub to shrub. The Indian is no friend to the *Crotophaga*; he has an idea that this bird cannot bear the human whistle, and flies as soon as it is sounded. Our Indian guides amused themselves therefore frequently in breaking out on a sudden in a shrill whistle; and were highly delighted when the startled birds took to their wings. I subjoin the Indian names for the lesser *Crotophaga* (*C. rugirostra*). It is called in the *Lingua Geral* which is spoken in the province *Para Ano Curauca*, in the Arawak *Cunuba*, in the Macusi *Owowi*, in the Wapeshana *Houwi*. *C. major* is called *Woworima* by the Macasis, and *Cosac* by the Warraus."

[To be continued.]

XL.—Information respecting Botanical Travellers.

Mr. Schomburgk's recent Expedition in Guiana.

[Continued from p. 266.]

THERE are contradictory accounts among the Indians of a species of a cat, which in size and spotting resembles the Cheta (*Felis jubata*). Its ground colour is yellowish-fawn, and the spots are of a uniform colour and full and complete. Such appeared the cat to me which I saw watching me as related above*; and although I have doubted the evidence of my eyes, the existence of such a species has gained additional strength by the circumstance, that, on visiting the British Museum with the three Indians who accompanied me from Guiana to England, they took the Cheta to be a specimen of that species which is indigenous to Guiana, and identical with the one which annoyed us so much.

In the Supplement to Buffon's 'Histoire Naturelle,' tome iii. planche 38 †, the figure of a cat is given which agrees with the one which I saw at Curassawaka, and it would be remarkable if, after all

* See p. 265.

† Nous donnons ici la figure d'un animal de l'espèce des léopards ou des jaguars. Le dessin nous en a été envoyé par feu M. Colinson, mais sans nom, et sans aucune autre notice. Et comme nous ignorons, s'il appartient à l'ancien ou au nouveau continent, et qu'en même temps, il diffère de l'once et du leopard, par la forme des taches et plus encore du jaguar et de l'ocelot, nous ne pouvons décider auquel de ces animaux on doit le rapporter; seulement il nous paroît qu'il a un peu plus de rapport avec le jaguar, qu'avec le léopard.—*Ibid.* p. 218.

Kerschner, M L. 1879. "On the Notodelphyidæ." *Annals of natural history* 4, 321–322. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937908679837>.

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