

March 21, 1871.

R. Hudson, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following report by the Secretary on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1871 was read:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1871 was 45, of which 9 were by birth, 8 by presentation, 26 by purchase, and 1 by exchange, 1 animal having been received only on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 100.

Amongst the additions almost the only one of special interest was two pairs of a small West-African Finch (*Spermestes fringilloides**), purchased February 14. Our Superintendent has already given us full particulars of the birth of the young Hippopotamus, which occurred February 21.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of the Ceylonese *Prinia* spoken of by Mr. W. Vincent Legge in a communication to the Society read on November 1, 1870† last, and now forwarded for examination by that gentleman. Lord Walden had pronounced the specimen to be *P. socialis* of Sykes, not differing from examples collected in Coorg and Candeish.

Dr. E. Hamilton, in corroboration of Mr. Swinhoe's remarks (P. Z. S. 1870, p. 91) on the prolific nature of *Hydropotes inermis*, read the following extract from a letter lately received from Mr. J. A. Arnott of Shanghai:—

“Do you know that the doe of this species has constantly five or six young ones at a birth? We often find it so when the animal is opened, as is customary immediately after it is shot.”

Dr. Hamilton observed that this corroboration of Mr. Swinhoe's observations was important. As a rule the various species of the genus *Cervus* usually only have one calf at a time. *Cervus dama* sometimes brings forth two, and occasionally, though very rarely, three; *Cervus capreolus* never more than two. It would be interesting to know whether the nearest allies to this genus (viz. *Cervus pudu* of Chili, and *Moschus moschiferus* of North-eastern Asia) have this peculiarity, as it was certainly a distinct feature in the *Hydropotes*.

The following (eleventh) letter‡ on the Ornithology of Buenos Ayres by Mr. W. H. Hudson, C.M.Z.S., was read:—

“Buenos Ayres, 2nd September, 1870.

“SIR,—Besides the Black-headed Gull (*Larus cirrhocephalus*),

* *Ploceus fringilloides*, Lafr. Mag. de Zool. 1853, pl. 48.

† P. Z. S. 1870, p. 673.

‡ For preceding letter, see *antea*, p. 4. See also Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 137, et 1869, p. 158.

described in my last letter, we have in this country five species of *Laridæ*; but at present I will pass these over, and defer my descriptions of them until I shall have increased the rather scanty stock of facts I possess in reference to their habits.

“I have just become acquainted with a bird never before, I think, obtained in this region—the *Upucerthia dumetoria*. A pair of these birds (male and female) appeared in a field near my house this winter; and a month after first seeing them I succeeded in shooting both. The male proved to be a trifle the larger; but in plumage they were alike. They reminded me in all their motions of the *Cinclodes fuscus*, being, like it, shy and ever ready to take wing, and their flight being irregular, rapid, and near to the earth. The bird also sometimes alights on dry stalks, but more often on the ground, hopping and jerking the tail in a startled manner, and running with extraordinary swiftness over the bare places. These birds were probably winter visitants from Patagonia; but that they regularly migrate so far north is doubtful. The species has been considered, I think, an inhabitant of the Andean regions exclusively; but I have seen one skin obtained on the Atlantic sea-board, in the southern part of this province.

“We have already many indications of approaching spring; and I regret to find that I have not been able to give so much attention to the habits of our winter species as I had intended to do, or to write so many letters as I had hoped. Before many days the cold season will have gone, and with it the birds that annually visit us from the barren tablelands of Patagonia. When I reflect how few species there are in this sombre-plumaged train, compared with the multitude that come to us in summer wearing the gay livery of the tropics, I am forced to think that Patagonia must indeed be poor in species. Yet in the interior of that country there is a fertile region, abounding in forests, and watered by a great river and its tributary streams. Whatever birds inhabit such a region certainly do not visit us, all our winter visitants, except two of the Hawks, being lovers of open bare plains, and alighting almost exclusively on the ground. It is not, however, impossible that in those districts of Patagonia adapted to the habits of Passerine birds many resident species may exist. Most anxiously do I wait an opportunity of learning something from observation of the ornithology of that country.

“I will now furnish you with a short sketch of our winter birds and their movements.

“The Osquita (*Centrites niger*) and the *Cinclodes fuscus* are the earliest to appear—the former on bare places, the latter on the margins of streams. Both are very common and found widely distributed. Very interesting in appearance is the silent little Osquita, the bright rufous on its back contrasting prettily with its other colour, the bill, feet, and plumage being intensely black, as if dyed in Indian ink; the inside of the bill and tongue is bright yellow. When they first appear the young males have almost as pale an ashy

plumage as the females. Soon they become mottled with black, and before leaving us have only a few dark grey specks to distinguish them from the adults. They are quarrelsome and lively, incessantly hopping and flitting about the little spot of bare earth they attach themselves to. This may be the barren ground surrounding a Vizcacha village, a sheep-fold, or the dry trodden place where a herd of Cows is made to stand at night. They are also fond of muddy low grounds, when the grass is closely cropped. Occasionally one is seen to perch on a reed or thistle-bush; but they have so great an antipathy to trees that they will scarcely even alight on the ground near one. This characteristic of the true pampas birds is scarcely stronger in the *Anthus correndera* than in the present species.

"The *Cinclodes fuscus* is also a lively bird, and quick in its motions on the ground, but when perched on trees sits motionless in one posture. They are quarrelsome and sportive, and when pursuing each other utter a trilling excited cry. Occasionally on a warm day they attempt to sing, darting up from the ground as they utter their notes; but their voice is as destitute of melody as their plumage is of brilliant hues.

"Neither of the foregoing species is strictly gregarious; yet several individuals are usually seen near together, and the Osquitas are sometimes met with on the plain or flying in small and scattered flocks.

"The *Tænioptera variegata* appears on the eve of winter, and is subsequently found thinly and widely distributed over the plains. Their migration probably extends several degrees further north; for they are most numerous when they first appear, and at that time seem, both when running on the ground and when flying, always to be advancing north.

"Two Hawks are amongst our winter visitors—the *Hypotriorchis femoralis* and *Tinnunculus sparverius*. They come and go about the same time, are not common, but widely distributed, and resemble each other in their manner of flight, the habit of perching on a dry limb or post, and the haunting some favourite hedge or orchard throughout the winter. A person from Patagonia has informed me that the smaller Hawk is very common in summer in the neighbourhood of the settlement of the Rio Negro, and breeds there, building its nest in trees.

"There are two Gulls amongst our winter immigrants—a large black-winged Gull, and a dusky grey Gull with a black bill. These birds probably breed on the shores of the Atlantic; in winter they are found pretty widely distributed over the pampas. Wherever the hide is stripped from a dead Horse or Cow they appear, Vulture-like, to feed on the flesh, wandering away again when it is finished. These birds appear to possess no regular migration: the grey species is always very rare; and the black-winged Gull is much more numerous in some seasons than in others.

"There are also two Geese, the largest of which is the Butarda (*Bernicla magellanica*). There is a great difference between the

sexes of this species, the plumage of the male being white and pale grey, that of the female of a deep brown and slate-colour. Over two degrees of latitude south of our city is the extreme northern limit of its winter migration. The neighbourhood of the southwestern town of Azul is a favourite resort of these birds when they visit us; there they are found in great numbers, in flocks of from a dozen to a hundred individuals, scattered about the plain and feeding upon the clover and tender grasses. They are shy and loquacious, and chatter much during the night in frosty weather. Whether they breed in the Patagonian mainland or in the Falkland Islands I cannot say, but have been told that in the last region they are very numerous in summer.

"The lesser dark brown Goose, called here *Pato de la Sierra**, and resembling the female *Butarda*, advances much further north than that bird, but is seldom seen within fifty miles of Buenos Ayres city. That far south of the city is the resort of the advance flocks; they annually visit the same place in considerable numbers, and remain in it so faithfully through the season that we might fancy they had agreed to consider it a boundary line, over which it was not safe or lawful for them to pass.

"Of the family that includes Snipes, Plovers, &c. we have five winter species:—

"The *true* Vecasina (for this vernacular name is sometimes given to other species): a large bird, the upper plumage dark, below white, very thickly mottled with rufous red. I am inclined to think that it remains in this country all the year—in summer breeding on the extreme southern pampas, and straggling north in winter.

"The Chorlo-amarillento (*Ægialitis falklandica*) passes us late in autumn on its way to the north, few remaining through the cold season with us.

"The Chorlito de Invierno (*Eudromias modestus*) and the Gachita (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) appear in April, are numerous, and widely distributed.

"A pretty little cinereous Plover, with a rufous head and belted breast, is also found in winter very sparsely distributed over the southern half of this state.

"Of the foregoing five species I will speak more at length when I come to treat of the families to which they appertain.

"The last on this short list is the large Curlew-like *Vanduria de Invierno*†, a bird well known for its size, its hard abrupt cry of extraordinary power, and its strongly contrasted colours—bright red legs, wings and back ash-blue, under surface and belly black, head and neck deep yellow. This bird appears in May, is very common on the pampas about the latitude 38°, becoming rarer as we advance north, and is but seldom seen north of Buenos Ayres city. They frequent dry grounds abounding in long loose grass, or sprinkled with low cardoon bushes, and feed in scattered flocks of from half a

* [No doubt *Chloëphaga poliocephala*.—P. L. S.]

† [An Ibis, *Geronticus melanopsis* (Forst.).—P. L. S.]

dozen to forty or fifty individuals. Their long, slender, curved bills are used much in probing, as the larvæ of the large-horned beetle are often found in large quantities in their stomachs. Often they are so intent on seeking their food that the members of a flock will all separate and wander out of sight of each other; occasionally at such times they utter loud vehement cries, as if to call their companions, or to inform each other of their whereabouts. Frequently one will suddenly lift up his wings as if to fly, and, stretching them up vertically, remain fifteen or twenty seconds in this curious attitude. At sunset they all rise up clamouring, and direct their flight to the nearest watercourse, and often on their way to the evening rendezvous go through a strange and interesting process. The whole flock suddenly precipitates itself downward through the air with a violence wonderful to see, every bird wheeling this way and that, as if striving to outvie his fellows in every wild fantastic motion of which they are capable. In this manner they reascend and descend again and again, scattering or closing together as if pursuing and then striving to avoid each other. This exercise they keep up for some time, and while it continues make the air for miles resound with their loud percussive screams. On the arrival of spring the Vandurias take their departure: their swift and easy flight might in a very short space of time convey them to the extreme southern point of this continent; but I should think, judging from their habits here and what I know of the physical condition of Patagonia, that the northern portion of that country would be their most congenial summer home.

“Thus but fifteen Patagonian species visit us: there may be a few more, probably the *Tringa bonapartii* and perhaps a species of *Tænioptera*; but some that I have placed on the list (the *Vecasina*, for example) may prove to be residents of the Buenos Ayrean pampas.

“Some of our resident species appear in districts in winter where they are never seen in summer. The migrations of these birds are never very regular; the most common are the Boyero (*Tænioptera coronata*), the Burrowing Parrot, the large Wild Pigeon, and the Greater Red-breasted Lark.”

Dr. Cunningham read a memoir on some points in the anatomy of the Steamer Duck (*Micropterus cinereus*), founded on specimens of this bird in various stages obtained by him during the recent survey of the Magellan Straits. The conclusion arrived at by Dr. Cunningham, after careful study of these examples, was that the so-called *Micropterus patachonicus* was only the young of *M. cinereus*—the peculiarity being that the power of flight departed from this bird as it grew adult.

This paper will be published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

1. On the Birds of the Island of Santa Lucia, West Indies.
By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to
the Society.

[Received March 14, 1871.]

(Plate XXI.)

Our newly elected Corresponding Member Mr. G. W. Des Vœux, Administrator of the Government of Santa Lucia, has most kindly sent to me a collection of birds formed in that island by the Rev. J. E. Semper, an English clergyman resident there. This collection is one of great interest, as very little is known of the avifauna of Santa Lucia, and every branch of the zoology of the Antilles is worthy of special investigation. Before speaking of it I may be permitted to say a few words on the present state of our knowledge of the birds of the Antilles generally.

The West-Indian Islands seem to me to constitute, as I have on former occasions explained, a distinct subdivision of the Neotropical region, which may be called the *Subregio antillensis**. This sub-region is divisible into two portions, which correspond to the two usually recognized divisions of the islands into the Greater and Lesser Antilles. The former of these is characterized by the presence of the remarkable Mammal-forms *Solenodon*, *Capromys*, and *Plagiodontia*, and by several peculiar types of ornithic life, such as *Spindalis*, *Sporadinus*, *Todus*, and *Saurothera*, which run on as far as Porto Rico, but do not cross into the Lesser Antilles. The latter, if we put the Chiroptera aside, present but few traces of Mammal-life, except one or two species of Agouti (*Dasyprocta*) and Mouse (*Hesperomys*), but are tenanted by certain characteristic forms of birds, such as *Rhamphocinclus*, *Cinclocerthia*, *Orthorhynchus*, and *Eulampis*, which are not known in the Greater Antilles.

The ornithology of the Greater Antilles is now tolerably well known to us, although specimens from most of the islands are rare in collections and difficult to obtain. The Lesser Antilles, on the other hand, are still very imperfectly investigated as regards their birds, many of them being, so far as I know, still unvisited by any naturalist or collector. There can be no doubt, however, that every one of them is well worthy of being worked at, and that the results to be obtained from a thorough examination of the whole group would be of great importance towards a more complete knowledge of the laws of distribution. To show how slight our acquaintance is with this subject and how much remains to be done, I will mention the principal islands or island-groups in order, and specify what kind of knowledge we have of their ornithology.

* Prof. Baird, in his excellent articles on the distribution and migrations of North-American birds (American Journal of Science and Arts, vol. xli.), proposes to make the West Indies a "Region" of itself. I do not think that there are sufficient reasons for adopting this course, though there is in its fauna a certain element of autochthonism which does not harmonize very well with either North or South America.

1. *The Virgin Islands*.—Of these islands we may, I think, assume that we have a fair acquaintance with the birds of St. Thomas, the most frequently visited of the group, and the halting-place of the West-Indian Mail-steamers. Mr. Riise, who was long resident here, collected and forwarded to Europe many specimens, some of which were described by myself*, and others are spoken of by Prof. Newton in a letter published in 'The Ibis' for 1860, p. 307. Mr. Riise's series of skins is now, I believe, at Copenhagen. Frequent allusions to the birds of St. Thomas are also made by Messrs. Newton in their memoir of the birds of St. Croix, mentioned below. In the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' for 1860 (p. 374), Mr. Cassin has given an account of a collection of birds made in St. Thomas by Mr. Robert Swift, and presented to the Academy; twenty-seven species are enumerated.

Quite at the extreme east of the Virgin Islands, and lying between them and the St. Bartholomew group, is the little islet of Sombrero, "a naked rock about seven eighths of a mile long, twenty to forty feet above the level of the sea, and from a few rods to about one third of a mile in width." Although "there is no vegetation whatever in the island over two feet high," and it would seem a most unlikely place for birds, Mr. A. A. Julien, a correspondent of Mr. Lawrence of New York, succeeded in collecting on it specimens of no less than thirty-five species, the names of which, together with Mr. Julien's notes thereupon, are recorded by Mr. Lawrence in the eighth volume of the 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York' (p. 92).

The remaining islands of the Virgin group are, I believe, most strictly entitled to their name so far as ornithology is concerned, for no collector on record has ever polluted their virgin soil. Prof. Newton (Ibis, 1860, p. 307) just alludes to some birds from St. John in the possession of Mr. Riise.

2. *St. Croix*.—On the birds of this island we have an excellent article by Messrs. A. and E. Newton, published in the first volume of 'The Ibis'†. This memoir, being founded on the collections and personal observations of the distinguished authors themselves, and having been worked up after a careful examination of their specimens in England, and with minute attention to preceding authorities, forms by far the most complete account we possess of the ornithology of any one of the Lesser Antilles. It, however, of course requires to be supplemented by additional observations, many points having been necessarily left undetermined; and it is much to be regretted that no one seems to have since paid the slightest attention to the subject.

3. *Anguilla, St. Martin, and St. Bartholomew*.—Of this group of islands St. Bartholomew alone has, as far as I know, been explored ornithologically, and that within a very recent period. In the Royal Swedish Academy's 'Proceedings' for 1869 will be found an excel-

* Ann. N. H. ser. 3, vol. iv. p. 225; and P. Z. S. 1860, p. 314.

† Ibis, 1859, pp. 59, 138, 252, and 365.

lent article*, by the veteran ornithologist Prof. Sundevall, on the birds of this island, founded on a collection made by Dr. A. von Göes. The species enumerated are forty-seven in number, amongst which the most interesting, perhaps, is the *Euphonia flavifrons*, originally obtained, along with one or two other species, in the latter part of the last century, and figured by Sparrman in his 'Museum Carlsonianum,' along with several other species from the same island.

4. *Barbuda*.—Of this British island I believe I am correct in saying that nothing whatever is known of its ornithology, or of any other branch of its natural history.

5. *St. Christopher and Nevis*, to which may be added the adjacent smaller islands *St. Eustathius and Saba*.—Of these islands also our ornithological knowledge is of the most fragmentary description. Mr. T. J. Cottle was, I believe, formerly resident in Nevis, and sent a few birds thence to the British Museum in 1839. Amongst these were the specimens of the Humming-birds of that island, which are mentioned by Mr. Gould in his well-known work. Of the remainder of this group of islands we know absolutely nothing.

6. *Antigua*.—Of this fine British island, I regret to say, nothing whatever is known as regards its ornithology. Amongst the many thousands of American birds that have come under my notice during the past twenty years, I have never seen a single skin from Antigua.

7. *Montserrat*.—Exactly the same as the foregoing is the case with the British island of Montserrat.

8. *Guadeloupe, Deseadea, and Marie-galante*.—An excellent French naturalist, Dr. l'Herminier, was for many years resident as physician in the island of Guadeloupe. Unfortunately, Dr. l'Herminier never carried into execution the plan which I believe he contemplated, of publishing an account of the birds of that island. He sent, however, a certain number of specimens to Paris and to the late Baron de la Fresnaye, to whom we are indebted for the only article ever published on the birds of Guadeloupe†, or of the adjacent islands.

9. *Dominica*.—Dominica is one of the few of the Caribbean islands that has had the advantage of a visit from an active English ornithologist. Although Mr. E. C. Taylor only passed a fortnight in this island in 1863, and had many other matters to attend to, he nevertheless contrived to preserve specimens of many birds of very great interest, of which he has given us an account in one of his articles on the birds of the West Indies, published in 'The Ibis' for 1864 (p. 157). It cannot be supposed, however, that the birds of this wild and beautiful island can have been exhausted in so short a space of time, even by the energetic efforts of our well-known fellow-labourer. This Society have also upon one occasion received a valuable present from Dominica, in the shape of the splendid Parrot

* "Foglarne på ön S. Barthelémy, efter de af Dr. A. von Göes hemsända samlingarna bestämde;" af Carl J. Sundevall (Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar, 1869, p. 579).

† Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 167.

Chrysotis angusta, presented in 1865 by Mr. P. N. Bernard*, which still lives to adorn our Parrot-house.

10. *Martinique*.—This island is one of the few belonging to the Lesser Antilles in which birdskins are occasionally collected by the residents, and find their way into the hands of the Parisian dealers. There are also a certain number of specimens from Martinique in the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle in the Jardin des Plantes, which I have had an opportunity of examining; but, beyond the vague notices given by Vieillot in his 'Oiseaux de l'Amérique du Nord,' I am not aware of any publication relating specially to the ornithology of this island. Mr. E. C. Taylor passed a fortnight in Martinique in 1863, and has recorded his notes upon the species of birds which he met with in the excellent article which I have mentioned above; but these were only few in number. The International Exhibition in 1862 contained, in the department devoted to the products of the French colonies, a small series of the birds of Martinique, exhibited by M. Bélanger, Director of the Botanical Garden of St. Pierre in that island†. This is all the published information I have been able to find concerning the birds of Martinique‡.

11. *St. Lucia*.—Of the island I am now specially treating of I believe there is no published ornithological information whatever. The little knowledge of its avifauna which I possess is derived from two sources:—first, a few specimens in the Paris Museum obtained by Bonnecourt, a French collector who visited the island in 1850 and 1851 on his way to Central America; and, secondly, a small series of unpublished coloured drawings in the Library of this Society by Lieut. Tyler, who formerly contributed to the 'Proceedings' some notes on the reptiles of that island§. The latter, although rough and unfinished, are characteristic and mostly recognizable. Some years ago I had them arranged and bound; and I think them of sufficient interest to give the subjoined list of their vernacular names according to Lieut. Tyler, and of what I believe to be their correct scientific titles.

Lieut. Tyler's name.	Supposed scientific name.	Page
1. Cent coups de Couteau	<i>Antrostomus</i>	1
2.	<i>Tyrannus rostratus</i>	1
3.	<i>Myiarchus antillensis</i>	1
4. Grieve.....	<i>Margarops densirostris</i>	1
5. Red-breasted Humming-bird ...	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>	2
6. Carouge, or Banana-bird	<i>Icterus laudabilis</i>	3
7. Mauvie	<i>Margarops herminieri</i>	3
8. Gorge-blanc	<i>Rhamphocinclus brachyurus</i>	3
9. Coucou manioc	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	3
10. Peewit	<i>Elainea martinica</i>	4
11. Ortolan, or Ground-Dove.....	<i>Chamæpelias trochilea?</i>	4

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1865, p. 437.

† See article on Ornithology in the International Exhibition, 'Ibis,' 1862, p. 288.

‡ On animals formerly living in Martinique but now extinct, see Guyon, 'Compt. Rend.' lxxiii. p. 589 (1866).

§ See P. Z. S. 1849 and 1850.

Lieut. Tyler's name.	Supposed scientific name.	Page
12. Rossignol	<i>Thryothorus martinicensis</i> *	5
13. Grosbeak	<i>Saltator martinicensis</i>	6
14. Grivotte	<i>Margarops montanus</i>	6
15. Carouge (femelle)	<i>Icterus bonana</i>	6
16. Trembler	<i>Cinclocerthia macrorhyncha</i>	6
17. Père noir	<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	7
18. Sucrier	<i>Certhiola martinicana</i>	7
19. Perdrix croissant	<i>Geotrygon mystacea</i>	8

12. *St. Vincent*.—St. Vincent was formerly the residence of an energetic and most observant naturalist, the Rev. Lansdown Guilding, F.L.S., well-known to the first founders of this Society, who, however, unfortunately died at an early age in this island without having carried out his plans for a fauna of the West Indies†.

Mr. Guilding paid most attention to the invertebrate animals; but his collections contained a certain number of birds, amongst which was a new Parrot, described after his decease by Mr. Vigors as *Psittacus guildingii*, and probably a native of St. Vincent.

13. *Grenada and the Grenadines*.—Of the special ornithology of this group nothing is known.

14. *Barbados*.—The sole authority upon the birds of Barbados is Sir R. Schomburgk's well-known work on that island‡. This contains (p. 681) a list of the birds met with, accompanied by some few remarks. It does not, however, appear that birds attracted much of the author's attention; and more copious notes would be highly desirable.

Although Tobago and Trinidad are geographically reckoned in the windward division of the Lesser Antilles, they have zoologically, I believe, nothing whatever to do with them. Both have been peopled with life from the adjacent mainland; or if in the case of Tobago this was not originally the case, it has been overrun with continental species, and, as well as Trinidad, now presents few, if any, traces of Antillean forms. Of the ornithology of both of these islands we have excellent accounts—of that of Tobago by Sir William Jardine§, from the collections of Mr. Kirk, and of that of Trinidad more recently from the pens of Dr. Léotaud|| and Dr. Finsch¶.

Having thus summed up how much, or rather how little we yet know of the ornithology of the Lesser Antilles individually, I proceed to give an account of the collection of birds of Santa Lucia, for which, as above mentioned, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Des Vœux.

This collection contains examples of the following twenty-five species, amongst which is one that appears to have been hitherto undescribed.

* Sclater, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 320.

† See his sketch of his plans, Zool. Journ. ii. p. 437. He died in 1832.

‡ History of Barbados: London, 1847.

§ Annals of Nat. Hist. vols. xviii., xix., xx. (1846–47).

|| Oiseaux de l'île de la Trinidad: Port of Spain, 1866.

¶ See Proc. Zool. Soc. 1870, p. 552.

1. MARGAROPS HERMINIERI.

Turdus herminieri, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 167.

Cichlerminia bonapartii, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 335.

Two skins of this little-known Thrush, which was first described by Lafresnaye from specimens obtained by L'Herminier in Guadeloupe. I had previously thought it would be necessary to follow Bonaparte in making this abnormal species the type of a separate genus; I am now, however, of opinion that it may be allowed to remain with its allies of the genus *Margarops*.

The native name is given as "*Molvie*." The iris is marked "dull green;" the feet "bright yellow."

2. MARGAROPS MONTANUS, Scl. P. Z. S. 1859, p. 336.

Turdus montanus, Lafr. R. Z. 1844, p. 167.

Two specimens also of this species, likewise first obtained by L'Herminier in Guadeloupe. A specimen in my collection (purchased of the Maison Verreaux) is from Martinique.

The native name of this species is given as "*Grevotte*." The iris is marked "*light yellow*;" the feet "*dark green*."

3. RHAMPHOCINCLUS BRACHYURUS (Vieill.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 328.

Native name "*Gorge-blanc*." This bird was already known to occur in Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Santa Lucia.

In Tyler's drawings (pl. 8) this bird is represented standing erect, with its tail elevated and mouth open; and a note is added that it "places itself in this position and calls the other birds around it on seeing a Snake."

4. CINCLOCERTHIA MACRORHYNCHA, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 320; Scl. et Salv. Ex. Orn. p. 21, t. 11.

This species I described in 1866 from a single specimen sent from Santa Lucia by Bonnecourt to the Paris Museum. The present examples quite agree with the description and figure already given.

Mr. Semper gives "*Le Trembleur*" as the native name of this bird, which coincides with what is stated in 'Exotic Ornithology.' The iris is noted as "yellow," and the legs as "dark green."

This species is replaced in Martinique by *C. gutturalis*, and in Guadeloupe by *C. ruficauda* (see Ex. Orn. p. 21 *et seq.*).

5. MIMUS GILVUS, Vieill.

The *Mimus* of Santa Lucia appears to agree best with specimens in my collection from Trinidad and Venezuela which I now refer to *M. gilvus*. Under this name I now include the specimens referred in my Catalogue (C. A. B. p. 9) to *M. melanopterus* of Lawrence. They are, however, rather smaller in size, and have the white ends of the tail-feathers not so long.

Sir W. Jardine has already traced this species up to Tobago (see Ann. N. H. ser. 2, xx. p. 329).

6. *DENDRÆCA ADELAIDÆ*, Baird, Rev. B. N. A. p. 212.

Without comparing it with the type I should be unwilling to separate this species from the Porto-Rican *D. adalaidæ*, lately described by Baird. The single skin sent by Mr. Semper agrees with Prof. Baird's description in almost every particular. But the white continuations of the superciliaries spoken of by Prof. Baird, if present at all, are very slight in my specimen; and the bend of the wing is not yellow, although there is a slight yellowish tinge upon it.

Mr. Semper gives this bird the name of the "*Sucrier gran-bois*." The measurements of the skin are:—Whole length 4·4, wing 2·2, tail 2; the third and fourth primaries are nearly equal and longest.

7. *VIREOSYLVA CALIDRIS* (Linn.).

Vireosylva calidris, Baird, Review of A. B. p. 329.

Vireosylva altiloqua, Scl. Cat. A. B. p. 43.

Mr. Semper's skins agree with other specimens of this species in my collection. Mr. Semper gives the vernacular name of this bird as *Mabelle*, and describes the iris as "light claret-colour."

8. *CERTHIOLA MARTINICANA* (Gm.).

Certhiola albigula, Bp. Notes Orn. p. 51.

I have forwarded the single specimen of this species contained in the collection to Dr. Finsch, who is engaged on a monograph of the genus. Dr. Finsch tells me that it is "undoubtedly identical with *C. martinicana* of Martinique."

The *Certhiola* of Dominica (*C. dominicana*) is, according to Mr. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 167), very readily distinguishable.

The vernacular name of this species is given as "*Sucriere*." The iris is described as "brown," and the feet as "dark green."

9. *MYIADESTES GENIBARBIS*, Sw. Nat. Libr. xiii. p. 134, pl. 13; Baird, Rev. B. N. A. p. 423.

Prof. Baird is, I believe, right in regarding this bird as distinct from *M. solitarius* of Jamaica, although the two species are very closely allied. The only differences are:—(1) the large white chin-spot in *M. genibarbis*, which is but slightly shown in *M. solitarius*; (2) the corresponding larger size of the white riatal spot in *M. genibarbis*; (3) the white striated ear-coverts in *M. genibarbis*, the ear-coverts in *M. solitarius* being very nearly uniform; and (4) the greater extension of rufous over the lower belly in *M. genibarbis*. In other respects the two species are so much alike that I find I have had a skin of *M. genibarbis* long in my collection, confounded with *M. solitarius*.

I have compared the Santa-Lucia skins of this bird with two examples of *M. genibarbis* in the Swainsonian collection at Cambridge (which, although not so marked, are in all probability typical specimens), and find them agree. They also agree with Swainson's figure and description, particularly as regards the striated ear-coverts, except that he does not expressly mention the white chin.

I have never yet met with any specimens of *Myiadestes* agreeing with *M. armillatus* (Vieill.), with rufous terminations to the thighs. In four specimens of *M. solitarius* now before me, and five of *M. genibarbis*, the thighs are ashy. It is possible that *M. armillatus*, verus, may be the species from St. Domingo, where there is an unknown representative of this form*.

This species is probably the *M. armillatus* of Martinique spoken of by Vieillot (Enc. Méth. p. 824), and the *Solitaire* of St. Vincent found in the *Souffrière* of St. Vincent, described by Hill in Gosse's 'Jamaica' (p. 200).

Mr. Semper's notes state that this bird is known in Santa Lucia as the "*Siffleur montagne*."

10. *SALTATOR GUADELUPENSIS*, Lafr.; Scl. C. A. B. p. 97.

These skins agree perfectly with a specimen in my collection from the same island. I have also lately received a skin from Martinique, which does not differ. I am therefore of opinion that *S. martinicensis* of Bp. Consp. p. 489 is identical, as already implied in my remarks P. Z. S. 1856, p. 76.

Mr. Semper gives this bird the name of "*Gros-bec*," and notes the iris as "green," and the feet as "light dull green."

11. *LOXIGILLA NOCTIS* (Linn.); Sclater, C. A. B. p. 601.

Père-noir de la Martinique, Buff. Pl. Enl. 201. f. 1.

Mr. Semper's single specimen agrees with a Martinique skin in my collection, except in having the superciliary mark rather shorter (only just reaching the eye), and no rufous at all on the crissum. It will be interesting to ascertain whether these differences are constant.

In Santa Lucia this bird is called "*Père-noir*," as, according to Buffon and other authors, it is in Martinique.

12. *ICTERUS LAUDABILIS*, sp. nov. (Plate XXI.)

Niger: tectricibus alarum superioribus minoribus, subalaribus, dorso postico et ventre imo cum lateribus et crisso aurantiaco-flavis: remigum marginibus interioribus grisescentibus: rostro et pedibus nigris: long. tota 8.9 poll. Angl., alæ 4.3, caudæ rectr. med. 4.2, lat. 3.5, rostri a rictu .95.

Hab. Ins. Sta. Lucia.

Obs. Sp. *I. portoricensi* affinis, sed crassitie majore, et dorso imo ventreque latius aurantiacis, neque flavis, distinguenda.

Of this *Icterus* three skins, all alike, are in the collection, one, probably a female, being rather smaller in dimensions. The native name is given as "*Carrouge*:" iris "dark red-brown;" feet "dark green."

This species belongs to the group of West-Indian *Icteri* represented in Cuba by *I. hypomelas*, in St. Domingo by *I. dominicensis*, and in Porto Rico by *I. portoricensis*†. Of these it most resembles

* Cf. Sclater and Salvin, Ex. Orn. p. 56.

† Cf. Cassin, Proc. Acad. Sc. Phil. 1867, p. 58.



J. Smit lith.

M & N Hanhart imp

ICTERUS LAUDABILIS.



the latter, having the lower back, belly, and crissum yellow, but of an orange (not sulphur) yellow. This yellow colour is also much wider both above and below, and embraces the upper tail-coverts, which in *I. portoricensis* are black.

Lieut. Tyler appears to have figured this bird in his drawings (fig. 6) as the "Carouge, male;" whilst his "Carouge, female" (fig. 15) is much more like *Icterus bonana* of Martinique, which may probably also occur in Santa Lucia.

13. *QUISCALUS LUGUBRIS*, Sw.; *Scl. C. A. B.* p. 141. "Merle," indig.

Quiscalus barita, Taylor, *Ibis*, 1864, p. 168.

Apparently undistinguishable from skins in my collection from Trinidad, Cayenne, and Guiana. The bill is slightly more curved on the culmen, but not long enough for *Q. inflexirostris*, Sw. (*An. in Men.* p. 300). I have exactly similar skins from Martinique, the male being one of Mr. Taylor's specimens, determined by him as *Q. barita*. But Mr. Cassin has recently shown* that the *Gracula barita* of Linnæus must be referred to the Jamaican species usually called *Q. crassirostris*, Sw.

14. *ELAINEA MARTINICA* (Linn.).

Tyrannula martinica, Cassin, *Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil.* 1860, p. 375.

Elainea martinica, Taylor, *Ibis*, 1864, p. 169.

Two skins of an *Elainea* sent by Mr. Semper are, no doubt, of this species, as identified by Mr. Cassin, *l. s. c.* As far as I can tell from the present specimens, they are likewise undistinguishable from my *E. riisii* of St. Thomas (*Cat. A. B.* p. 217).

A further question arises, as I have already pointed out (*P. Z. S.* 1870, p. 834), whether this Antillean species is really separable from *E. pagana* of the continent. This I am not able at present to determine satisfactorily.

15. *MYIOBIUS LATIROSTRIS*, Verreaux, *Nouv. Arch. d. Mus.* ii. Bull. p. 22, t. 3. f. 2 (1866).

Two skins of this little Tyrant-bird, which M. Jules Verreaux has recently described from specimens transmitted to the Museum of Paris by Bonnecourt.

Its nearest ally is *Myiobius phæocercus* (*Mitrephorus phæocercus* of my *Cat. A. B.* p. 228), which it greatly resembles in general colour. But it has a much broader bill, and no bars on the wings.

In Santa Lucia this bird is called the *Gobemouche Solitaire*. The iris is marked "brown;" and the legs in the living bird dark green.

16. *MYIARCHUS ERYTHROCERCUS*, Sclat. et Salv. *P. Z. S.* 1868, p. 631.

I have long had a skin of this bird from Dominica, collected by

* *Pr. Acad. Phil.* 1866, p. 405.

Mr. Taylor*, and have given it a MS. name. But after carefully recomparing it with my series of *M. erythrocerus*, I cannot find sufficient grounds for separating it. The Santa Lucia skins are rather larger than that from Dominica, and have the rufous portion of the inner webs of the rectrices still wider.

Mr. Semper gives the vernacular name of this species as the "*Pipperie Gran-bois*."

17. *TYRANNUS ROSTRATUS*, Sclater, Ibis, 1864, p. 87.

This Tyrant-bird, which is allied to *T. griseus* (sive *dominicensis*) of the Larger Antilles, but remarkable for its large bill, was originally described by me in a note to one of Mr. Taylor's papers on West-Indian birds in 'The Ibis' for 1864. Mr. Taylor's specimen being, as he has stated, from Trinidad, I came to the conclusion that the example in my collection might really be from Cayenne, as I had always supposed from the style of preparation. But I have more recently ascertained that an exactly similar preparation is found in some skins from Martinique, and therefore think it more likely that my example of *T. rostratus* may have been obtained there. If such is the case, I think it is just possible that Mr. Taylor may have made an error in the locality of his skin, and may have collected it in Martinique or Dominica (which he also visited), and not in Trinidad.

In Santa Lucia Mr. Semper tells us *Tyrannus rostratus* is called "*Pipperie*"—a usual name for the larger *Tyranni*, I believe, in the French colonies.

18. *EULAMPIS JUGULARIS* (Linn.); Gould, Mon. ii. pl. 82. "*Bronze-winged Humming-bird*," indig.

Mr. Gould gives "Nevis" as the only certain locality of this Humming-bird. Mr. Taylor obtained it in Dominica and Martinique (Ibis, 1864, p. 169). We have now examples from St. Lucia.

19. *EULAMPIS HOLOSERICEUS* (Linn.); Gould, Mon. ii. pl. 83. "*Emerald Humming-bird*," indig.

I have also skins of this species from St. Croix (*Newton*), Dominica (*Taylor*), and Martinique. I cannot quite appreciate the distinctness of Mr. Gould's *E. chlorolæmus*, from some unknown island, though Mr. Gould has kindly done his best to make me realize it.

20. *ORTHORHYNCHUS ORNATUS*, Gould, Mon. iv. pl. 206. "*Gold-headed Humming-bird*," indig.

Mr. Semper's skins agree with one in my collection obtained by Mr. Taylor in Martinique, which has been referred to *O. exilis* (Ibis, 1864, p. 170). But Mr. Gould now pronounces both the Santa Lucia and Martinique skins to belong to his *O. ornatus*, which is thus geographically as well as structurally intermediate between *O. cristatus* of Barbadoes and St. Vincent and *O. exilis* of the Virgin Islands and Nevis.

* Cf. Ibis, 1864, p. 169.

21. *CROTOPHAGA ANI* (Linn.). "*Merle Corbeau*," indig.

22. *COCCYZUS MINOR* (Gm.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1870, p. 166.
"*Coucou manioc*," indig.

Iris "dark brown." Mr. Semper's specimen agrees with the skin already in my collection from Santa Lucia.

23. *TINNUNCULUS SPARVERIUS* (Linn.).

The skins of this Kestrel from Santa Lucia have very dark bands on the back and tail, and no chestnut spot on the head of the male, as in specimens from St. Croix.

Mr. Semper gives the vernacular name of this bird as "*Gre-grec Falaise*," and describes the iris as "pale reddish brown."

24. *BUTORIDES VIRESCENS* (Linn.). "*Cayalie*," indig.

This Little Bittern occurs in St. Croix (Newton, Ibis, 1859, p. 261) and most of the other Antilles, except Trinidad, where *B. cyanurus* (sive *scapularis*) comes up to meet it (see Finsch, P. Z. S. 1870, p. 589).

25. *NYCTICORAX VIOLACEUS* (Linn.).

A single skin of a young bird of this rather widely spread species, which likewise occurs in St. Croix (Newton, *l. c.* p. 262).

As I am expecting to receive further collections of the birds of Santa Lucia, I will defer remarks on the general character of the ornithology of the island to a future occasion. It may, however, be pointed out that it is quite evident, even from the present small series, that the general facies of the Santa Lucian avifauna closely resembles that of the neighbouring islands Dominica and Martinique. Although we are still very imperfectly acquainted with the birds of these two islands, eleven out of the present list have been recorded as occurring in Martinique, and ten in Dominica. The species peculiar to Santa Lucia (so far as we know at present) are three in number—namely, *Cinclocerthia macrorhyncha*, *Icterus laudabilis*, and *Myiobius latirostris*.

2. ON a New Chinese Gull.

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S.

[Received March 15, 1871.]

(Plate XXII.)

CHROICOCEPHALUS SAUNDERSI, n. sp. (Plate XXII.)

Gavia kittlitzii, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1860, p. 68, 1861, p. 345.

Chroicocephalus kittlitzii, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1863, p. 428; P. Z. S. 1863, p. 328.

Larus schimperi, Schlegel (*nec* Bonaparte), Mus. des Pays-Bas, *Lari*, p. 40.

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