

Article IX.—FURTHER NOTES ON TRINIDAD BIRDS,
WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
SYNALLAXIS.

By FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

A second visit to Trinidad during March and April, 1894, while made largely for the purpose of collecting mammals, resulted in the acquisition of notes on birds which supplement those published in the preceding volume of this Bulletin.¹ On this occasion I was accompanied by Mr. William Brewster, and after a brief visit to my former headquarters near Princetown, we became the guests of Mr. Albert B. Carr, on his cacao estate at Caparo, in the west-central part of the island, seven miles east of Chaguanas. The country here is not unlike that about the rest-house where previous collections were made, the primeval forest being broken only by cacao estates. These, however, are younger and smaller, the region having been settled within comparatively recent years. Probably for this reason certain birds, which are common in the clearings and cacao groves about the rest-house, are as yet comparatively rare or wanting on Mr. Carr's estate; for example: *Vireo chivi agilis*, *Ramphocelus jacapa magnirostris*, *Elainea pagana*, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, and *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*.

The month of April was passed in the mountains which form the northern coast of the island. On their northern or seaward side the bases of these mountains are indented by but few bays; on their southern side, however, they are penetrated by numerous valleys. Our home was near the head of one of the most beautiful of these—the Caura Valley—about seven miles from its opening on the plains. Here we were the guests of Mr. J. E. Lickfold.

¹ 'On the Birds of the Island of Trinidad,' Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., VI, 1894, pp. 1-86.

Mr. Lickfold's house is at an elevation of 500 feet, while the crests of the surrounding hills reach an average altitude of about 2000 feet. The locality has long been devoted to cacao growing, and the primeval forest has largely disappeared. Still there are many large tracts of first-growth timber within a few hours' ride. While I visited them on several occasions, my experience was too limited to render valuable a comparison of the avifauna of the mountains with that of the lowlands; and I leave to future observers the task of explaining the rarity of such common lowland birds as *Glaucis hirsutus*, *Pygmornis longuemareus*, *Phaëthornis guyi*, *Galbula ruficauda*, *Rhamphastos vitellinus*, and *Pionus menstruus*; while the following equally common lowland species were not once observed: *Ostinops decumanus*, *Cassicus persicus*, *Pipra auricapilla*, *Momotus swainsoni*, *Trogon* (three species), *Amazona*, and *Urochroma*. On the other hand, *Euphonia trinitatis* and *Calliste desmaresti* were observed only in the mountains.

In attempting to express my appreciation of the hospitality extended me, I am again impressed by the failure of words to convey a sense of either my indebtedness or gratitude. Mr. Carr and Mr. Lickfold not only placed their homes at our disposal, but assisted us in every possible manner. I am also under many obligations to Mr. F. W. Urich.

NOTES ON SPECIES NOT OBSERVED IN 1893.

Merula phæopyga (Cab.). WHITE-THROATED THRUSH.—One female was taken at Caparo and another at Caura. They agree in color with a Venezuelan specimen.

Euphonia trinitatis (Strickl.). CRAVAT.—Not uncommon in the mountains, but not observed in the lowlands.

Calliste desmaresti Gray. WORTHLESS.—Observed only on the crests of the ridges in the Caura district, where it was not uncommon.

Piranga hæmalea S. & G. RUFOUS TANAGER.—A male in the plumage of the female, but with testes measuring about .18 in their longer diameter, was taken at Caura April 21.

Legatus albicollis (Vieill.). BLACK-BANDED PETCHARY.—A male of this species, heard calling from a tree-top, was taken at Caparo.

Chasmorhynchus variegatus (Gm.). BELL-BIRD; CAMPANERO.—This bird was not uncommon in the forests at Caparo, and in the more heavily wooded districts of the Caura Valley I have heard three birds calling at one time. The notes of this species will be found described at length in an article by Mr. Brewster and myself in 'The Auk' for July, 1895.

Synallaxis carri, sp. nov.

Synallaxis cinerascens LÉOTAUD, nec TEMM.

Char. Sp.—Similar to *Synallaxis terrestris* Jard., but upper parts, wings, and tail darker, throat blacker, rest of underparts darker and more olivaceous.

Description of Type (Coll. Am. Mus., No. 60,614, male, Caparo, Trinidad, March 27, 1894; Frank M. Chapman).—Upper parts mummy-brown;¹ exposed portion of the wing-quills and wing-coverts deep chestnut-rufous, tail decidedly darker; central third of the feathers of the upper throat white, lateral third black; feathers of the lower throat centrally buffy; rest of the underparts bistre with a slight cinnamon tinge, the breast faintly streaked with cinnamon. Wing, 2.08; tail, 2.52; exposed culmen, .53 inch.

The differences between this bird and a specimen of *S. terrestris* from Tobago are found in its darker coloration throughout, and especially in the restriction of the white of the throat. In this character it resembles the Colombian *S. lamosticta*, from which species it may, however, be distinguished at a glance by its more olivaceous and less rufous color.

The only specimen secured was killed on the ground in the forests at Caparo.

It gives me pleasure to dedicate this species to Mr. Albert B. Carr, of Trinidad, not only as a token of my gratitude for his

¹ Cf. Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors.

assistance, but also in recognition of his knowledge of the Trinidad fauna.

Chætura cinereicauda (Cass.).—A common species at Caparo, where four species of this genus were more or less abundant—the present, *C. cinereiventris lawrencei*, *C. spinicauda*, and *C. polioura*. Frequently all four would be circling above us at the same time. *C. cinereicauda* has not been before recorded from Trinidad, and this capture extends its known range from Southern Brazil. I have no other specimens of *C. cinereicauda* for comparison, but my eight specimens differ from six Yucatan examples of *C. gaumeri* as stated by Mr. Hartert (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XVI, p. 482).

Lurocalis semitorquatus (Gm.).—Two birds of this species were procured at Caparo. They were observed more or less regularly feeding at dusk near the border of the forest, flying swiftly back and forth over a short circuit and within ten feet of the ground. They thus resembled both a Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will in their feeding habits. A single low, insignificant note, uttered in flight, was the only one heard.

Celeus elegans (Müll.). YELLOW-HEADED WOODPECKER.—One of two birds seen at Caparo was secured.

Falco rufigularis Daud. RED-THROATED FALCON.—A specimen was taken by Mr. Brewster.

Cancroma cochlearia Linn. BOAT-BILL.—One immature specimen, in rufous plumage, was killed by Mr. Carr.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN 1893.

Thamnophilus major albicrissus (Ridgw.).

Thamnophilus albicrissus RIDGW. PROC. U. S. N. M. XIV, 1891, p. 481.
Thamnophilus major CHAPM. BULL. A. M. N. H. VI, 1894, p. 49.

In reviewing my paper on Trinidad Birds,¹ Mr. Ridgway speaks of the "Omission of *Formicarius* [*lege Thamnophilus*]

¹ Auk, XI, 1894, p. 172.

trinitatis and *F. [lege T.] albicrissus* described by me in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XIV, No. 871, p. 481." These birds were not omitted, but having overlooked Mr. Ridgway's separation of them, I included them both under the names of the Continental forms. At my request Mr. Ridgway has kindly loaned me the two specimens upon which his descriptions were based. Comparison of the type of *Thamnophilus albicrissus* with seven males from Trinidad and twenty males of true *T. major* from Brazil, apparently proves the Trinidad bird to be a race of the latter distinguished by its larger bill, whiter underparts, narrower white edgings on the outer vane of the primaries, and narrower white bars on the rectrices. The character of "remiges entirely without white edgings," given by Mr. Ridgway, appears to be a variable one, dependent probably upon age. Immature specimens with brown wing-coverts, like the type, have no white on the primaries, but fully adult examples have well-developed margins to these feathers.

A male from El Pilar, Venezuela, and also one from British Guiana, agree with Trinidad specimens, and it is probable that all birds from north of the Amazon should stand as *Thamnophilus major albicrissus* (Ridgw.).

Thamnophilus cirrhatus (Gm.).

Thamnophilus trinitatis RIDGW. Proc. U. S. N. M. XIV, 1891, p. 481.

As stated above, Mr. Ridgway has also loaned me his type of *Thamnophilus trinitatis*. The characters assigned to this race prove evidently, in my opinion, to be due largely if not entirely to individual variation. Two of three Trinidad specimens have the back of the same color as Mr. Ridgway's type, while the third agrees in coloration with a Demararan specimen. The color of the underparts is also variable. Trinidad specimens may *average* darker below, but a specimen from Demarara is fully as dark, if not darker, than one from Trinidad.

Phaëthornis guyi (Less.). BRIN-BLANC. — Notes on the song-habits of this species, by Mr. Brewster and myself, may be found in 'The Auk' for July, 1895, p. 207.

Nyctibius jamaicensis (*Gm.*). POOR-ME-ONE.—In the paper just cited (p. 208), our experience with this species is given in detail, and also an admirable colored plate. As surmised, *Nyctibius* proved to be the author of the 'Poor-me-one' call generally attributed to the Little Ant-eater (*Cyclothurus didactylus*).