XVI.—*Descriptions of Supposed New Species of Birds from the Islands of Grenada and Dominica, West Indies.*

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Read June 3d, 1878.

In a letter received from Mr. Ober, dated St. George's, Grenada, April 5th, 1878, he writes: "I have nearly completed Grenada; alas! Grenada has but little to complete. I send to the Smithsonian by the English ship 'Hermione,' a small box of birds, the result of my work here. I hope to get a few more in another part of the island, but take this chance to send them off."

The box was sent me from the Smithsonian, on its arrival, and contained 66 specimens, comprising 28 species; three of these I consider to be undescribed.

1. *Turdus Caribbæus*.

MALE. Upper plumage dark-olive, with the forehead dull reddish-brown; tall dark brownish olive; quills dark brown; lower part of throat, upper part of breast, and aldes, clear ash; lower part of breast, middle of abdomen, and under tail-coverts white; upper part of throat white, with distinct narrow stripes of ashy-brown; the under wing-coverts are pale cinnamon; upper mandible blackish for two-thirds its length, the end yellow; the under is yellow, with the base black; tarsi and toes brown; "iris red, naked skin around the eye orange."

Length (fresh), ♀ 1.4 inches; wing, 5; tail, 4 1-2; tarsus, 1 3-16.

There are two specimens in the collection, both males: the length given of the other is 9 1-2 inches, the tarsi are blackish-brown.

Habitat, Grenada. Mr. Ober says; "rather numerous, but shy."

Type in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. This species has a naked space around the eye, similar to that of *T. gymnophthalmus*; but it is of larger di-

mensions and differently colored from that species. The upper plumage of the new bird is clear deep olive, not at all brownish as in the other; the under plumage is of a lighter ash, and has a much greater extent of white; the striations on the throat are darker and more clearly defined.

2. *Thryothorus Grenadensis*.

FEMALE. Upper plumage of a rather bright ferruginous, a little inclining to brownish on the head and hind neck, and brighter on the rump; lores whitish tinged with rufous; a light rufous stripe extends over the eye to the hind neck; tail dull rufous, barred with black; the primary quills have their outer webs of a dull light rufous, with broad black bars; the inner webs are brownish-black; the wing-coverts and tertials are rufous with narrower black bars; under wing-coverts pale rufous; the throat is very pale rufous, inclining to whitish; the breast light rufous; the middle of the abdomen is of a rather paler shade; the sides and under tail-coverts are of a bright darker ferruginous; the upper mandible brownish-black; the under pale yellow, dusky at the tip; tarsi and toes hazel-brown.

Length (fresh), 4 3-4 inches; wing, 2 1-4; tail, 1 1-2; tarsus, 3-4; bill from front, 11-16.

There is also a specimen of the male, but as it was in poor condition, I chose the female as the type, from which it does not differ in plumage; its measure is given; length, 5 inches; wing, 2 1-4; tail, 1 1-2.

Habitat, Grenada. "Abundant."

Type in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. This species differs from *T. rufescens*, from Dominica, in having the coloring lighter throughout, especially below, the entire under-plumage of *T. rufescens* being of a dark rufous; there are subterminal black markings on the under tail-coverts of *T. rufescens*, whereas those of the new species are immaculate.

T. musicus, from St. Vincent, is at once distinguished by its white under-plumage.

3. *Blacicus brunneicapillus*.

Blacicus Blancoi, Lawr., nec Gundlach.

MALE. The plumage above is of a clear olive-brown, assuming an ochreous cast on the rump; the crown is of a much darker brown, forming a decided cap; tail and quill-feathers brownish-black; the tertials are edged with very pale fulvous; the throat is gray with just a tinge of fulvous on the lower

part; middle of breast, abdomen, and under wing-coverts reddish-ochreous, under tail-coverts of the same color, but paler; sides of the breast olivaceous; upper mandible black, the under pale yellowish-white; tarsi and toes brownish-black.

Length (fresh), 5 3-4 inches; wing, 2 7-8; tail, 2 5-8; tarsus, 5-8.

Habitat, Dominica. Mr. Ober says; "everywhere abundant in the ravines and dark valleys of the mountains."

Type in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. In "A Provisional List of the Birds of Dominica," published in 'Forest and Stream,' Dec. 6th, 1877, this bird was put as *Blacicus Blancoi*, Gundlach. Wishing to make a comparison with the type, I desired Dr. Gundlach to loan it to me for that purpose, with which request he kindly complied. The specimen was received quite recently; and I found that, though closely allied, the two birds are quite distinct.

B. Blancoi is from Porto Rico; the specimen sent is mounted, and is of somewhat smaller dimensions than the bird from Dominica; the wing measures 2 5-8 inches; the tail, 2 1-2; the tarsus, 9-16. The crown is olive-brown, which color gradually merges into the greenish-olive of the back and rump. In the new species the crown is deep brown, and the upper plumage olive-brown; it also differs in having the throat gray, which in the other is light fulvous; the color of the abdomen is rather paler than it is in *B. Blancoi*.

In another specimen of the new species, a female, "in young of the year plumage," the feathers of the wings and back are strongly marked with rufous, yet the upper plumage is as decidedly brown as in the adult, and the throat gray.

4. *Quiscalus luminosus*.

MALE.—The general plumage is of a lustrous dark bluish-violet; the upper and under tail coverts are dull dark green; tail dark glossy green; tertials, outer webs of larger quills, and the middle and larger wing-coverts, glossy green like the tail; the inner webs of the larger quills are black; smaller wing-coverts the color of the back; under wing-coverts black; the bill and feet are black; "Iris yellow."

Length (fresh), 10 1-4 inches; wing, 5; tail, 4 1-2; tarsus, 1 1-4; bill, 1 1-4.

FEMALE.—Upper plumage of a fine dark brown, light on the crown, the

feathers of which are margined with dull pale rust-color; the tail is blackish-brown, with a wash of greenish; quills dark brown; the under plumage is dark brownish-ash, lighter on the throat and breast, and fuliginous on the flanks, lower part of abdomen, and under tail-coverts; on the lower part of the neck is a wash of dull rust color; bill and feet black; "Iris yellow."

Length (fresh), 9 3-4 inches, wing 4 3-4; tail, 4; tarsus, 3-16; bill 1 1-8.

Habitat:—Grenada.

Types in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. The male of this species, in dimensions and general appearance, somewhat resembles *Q. brachypterus* from Porto Rico, but is of a brighter and more uniform violet; it may be at once known by its upper and under tail-coverts being green, the other having the upper-coverts colored like the back, and the under ones black. The females are totally unlike,—that sex in *Q. brachypterus* being black like the male, only duller.

In all the West Indian species of this genus, with which I am acquainted, except the bird now described, both sexes are black.