

said of others who in their haste to get ahead of someone else, have burdened our books with endless synonymy, by describing from insufficient material. Would science lose much if time were taken by observers to gather suitable material before describing a bird on the chance of its being new? I do not say that this is entirely practicable, but I do say that when a man thinks that specimens proving doubtful relationships may be obtained in any given locality, he should at least endeavor to obtain them. If time or means fail, it is his misfortune, although the adage "Where there's a will there's a way," still has force.

A LIST OF BIRDS TAKEN AND OBSERVED IN
CUBA AND THE BAHAMA ISLANDS,
DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 1891.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

DURING the past winter the writer visited Cuba and several of the Bahama Islands, and although nothing new was discovered in the way of birds or mammals, yet a list of the species noted is useful in studying the geographical distribution of insular forms, as well as being likely to add to our knowledge of the line of flight and season of migration of many of our North American species.

It is not intended to make this article more than a very condensed account of the route travelled and the different places visited, while giving a list of the species of birds observed and taken during the trip.

In a city like Havana, Cuba, the markets are always attractive from a naturalist's standpoint, as there one finds various kinds of birds, fish, and often mammals exposed for sale. Many birds are trapped and brought in alive, either in cages or tied together by their legs in bunches. Among the birds offered for sale in the Havana market we observed Cuban Quails (*Colinus cubanensis*), Doves (*Zenaida zenaida*), Cuban Meadow-larks (*Sturnella hippocrepis*), Orioles (*Icterus hypomelas*), and Guinea hens. There were also several cages of Blue-headed Quail Doves

(*Sturnellas cyanocephala*), the as they were nearly always to be

In crossing the harbor to take a number of Brown Pelicans and mostly near the entrance of the Castle.

From Havana to Cienfuegos hours, and the country through and fertile. To our good fortune the night, so that we were not troubled by the great objection to this ride.

Much of the land along the roads is broken here and there by fields broken here and there by coconut trees, or by extensive picturesque houses of the planters, sugar works standing out clearly. Buzzards, Anis (*Crotophaga*), Sparrow Hawks were common flitting about the hedges of cacti while stopping at a station, two came within a few feet of the cars. At San Domingo, a station near Cienfuegos, a station where the cars changed, we observed a *phœnicobius* (Gosse), flying over a Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) for a moment near the platform. The birds were not attractive, and very few birds were observed, during the trip. From Cienfuegos to Santiago de Cuba, a Finch (*Eutheia hypomelas*), a few hours by steamer, much of the

In Santiago de Cuba, with its quaint, many colored houses but very little in the way of break to explore its market. A few which had been trapped several Black Finches (*Melospiza parreisi*). Near the entrance of the bay (*Phaëthon flavirostris*) were water.

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(*Sturnænas cyanocephala*), the latter seeming to be common, as they were nearly always to be found in the markets.

In crossing the harbor to take the train for Cienfuegos, we saw a number of Brown Pelicans and Buzzards flying about the bay, mostly near the entrance of the harbor, in the vicinity of Moro Castle.

From Havana to Cienfuegos by rail is a ride of about eleven hours, and the country through which the road passes is pretty and fertile. To our good fortune, a heavy rain had fallen during the night, so that we were not troubled with dust, which is usually the great objection to this ride.

Much of the land along the road is cleared and cultivated, the fields broken here and there by clumps of royal palms and cocoanut trees, or by extensive plantations of sugar cane, with the picturesque houses of the planters, and the tall chimneys of the sugar works standing out clearly in the distance. Along the road Buzzards, Anis (*Crotophaga ani*), Cuban Meadow-larks and Sparrow Hawks were common. Numerous small birds were flitting about the hedges of cacti and pineapple plants, and once, while stopping at a station, two Finches (*Euthēia lepida*), came within a few feet of the car window, lighting on a banana tree, which grew so close to the track that its leaves touched the cars. At San Domingo, a station where the passengers for Cienfuegos changed cars, we observed a number of Swifts, *Cypselus phœnicobius* (Gosse), flying about the houses, and a Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) flew from a field and lit for a moment near the platform. The market in Cienfuegos is not attractive, and very few birds are offered for sale there. The only species observed, during two visits, were the Oriole (*Icterus hypomelas*), a Finch (*Euthēia lepida*), and some Cuban Parrots. From Cienfuegos to Santiago de Cuba is a run of some thirty hours by steamer, much of the time in sight of land.

In Santiago de Cuba, with its wonderful river-like harbor and its quaint, many colored houses, we found a most interesting city, but very little in the way of birds to repay our getting up at day-break to explore its market. The only birds offered for sale were a few which had been trapped alive, and included Cuban Parrots, several Black Finches (*Melopyrrha nigra*), and a pair of Nonpareils. Near the entrance of the harbor a pair of Tropic Birds (*Phaëthon flavirostris*) were flying about or floating on the water.

wing species:—

- Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.).
- Typselus phœnicobius* (Gosse).
- Turnella hippocrepis* Wagl.
- Euethia lepida* Jacq.
- Passerina ciris* (Linn.).
- Trogon dominicensis* (Gmel.).
- Mimus polyglottus orpheus* (Linn.).

BAHAMAS.

New Providence, Bahama Is-
land and studying the birds of
a number of times, and know-
ing to do considerable work during

observed between March 14 and

- Dendroica palmarum* (Gmel.).
- Dendroica tigrina* (Gmel.). †
- Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.).
- Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.). †
- Seiurus noveboracensis* (Linn.).
- Seiurus aurocapillus* (Linn.).
- Troglodytes carolinensis* (Linn.).
- Coccyzus plumbeus* (Linn.).

The writer in a mangrove swamp near
the island's beak. This bird is very much
observed on the Berry Islands. Another was

It became common after March 23.
A number seen April 1.

BERRY ISLANDS.

Procuring a schooner at Nassau, we sailed to the Berry Islands, distant about fifty-eight miles to the northwest. Some of these Islands are well wooded, in many places being covered with a thick growth of good sized trees, composed principally of *lignum vitæ* (*Guaiacum sanctum* L.) and what is known as the gumbo (*Obelmoschus esculentus*), and 'mastic' trees (*Bursera gummi-fera* L.). We spent a week on the Berry Islands and then proceeded to Bimini, leaving one of our collectors — Mr. Cyrus S. Winch — on the Islands to continue the work there. We procured the following species, all of which were taken between April 3 and April 20.

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| <i>Sterna maxima</i> (Bodd.). | <i>Callichelidon cyaneoviridis</i> Bryant. |
| <i>Pelecanus fuscus</i> Linn. | <i>Ampelis cedrorum</i> (Vieill.). |
| <i>Fregata aquila</i> (Linn.). | <i>Vireo crassirostris</i> Bryant. |
| <i>Ardea herodias</i> Linn. | <i>Cœreba bahamensis</i> (Reich.). |
| <i>Ardea virescens</i> Linn. | <i>Mniotilta varia</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Ardea tricolor ruficollis</i> (Gosse). | <i>Compsothlypis americana</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Nycticorax violaceus</i> (Linn.). | <i>Dendroica tigrina</i> (Gmel.). |
| <i>Rallus coryi</i> Maynard.* | <i>Dendroica coronata</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Actitis macularia</i> (Linn.). | <i>Dendroica dominica</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Columbigallina passerina</i> (Linn.). | <i>Dendroica kirtlandi</i> Baird. † |
| <i>Columba leucocephala</i> Linn. | <i>Dendroica palmarum</i> (Gmel.). |
| <i>Crotophaga ani</i> Linn. | <i>Dendroica discolor</i> (Vieill.). |
| <i>Coccyzus minor maynardi</i> Ridgw. | <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> (Linn.). | <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Doricha evelynæ</i> (Bourc.). | <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Myiarchus sagræ</i> Gundl. | <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> (Gmel.). |
| <i>Agelaius phœniceus bryanti</i> Ridgw. | <i>Seiurus motacilla</i> (Vieill.). |
| <i>Loxigilla violacea</i> (Linn.). | <i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i> (Linn.). |
| <i>Euethia bicolor</i> (Linn.). | <i>Mimus polyglottus orpheus</i> (L.). |
| <i>Passerina ciris</i> (Linn.). | <i>Mimus gundlachi</i> Cab. |
| <i>Spindalis zena</i> (Linn.). | |

BIMINI ISLANDS, BAHAMAS.

The Bimini Islands are an isolated group about midway between Florida and Nassau, situated on the edge of the Gulf

* Five specimens of this interesting bird were taken on the Berry Islands. They were not uncommon, but were shy and difficult to find. They rarely attempt to fly, but run swiftly, dodging in and out among the mangrove roots.

† This species is not uncommon in the Bahamas. We procured three examples at the Berry Islands, and my collector also obtained specimens at Abaco and the Caicos Islands.