

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB**

---

A TREMBLER NEW TO SCIENCE

BY OUTRAM BANGS

---

WHEN he named the Guadeloupe trembler, *Ramphocinclus tremulus*, Lafresnaye (Rev. Zool., 1843, p. 67) had two specimens, nos. 2697 and 2698, both collected by l'Herminier, for which he wrote similar labels. Of these, no. 2698, now Museum of Comparative Zoölogy no. 76,365, can be positively identified as the type, both by the description and by the measurements given by Lafresnaye—the exposed culmen, as taken by me, is 27 mm.

The type is still in excellent condition, and only slightly discolored—embrowned—by long exposure to direct sunlight as a mounted exhibition specimen. Otherwise, it is quite like any in a series of eight skins collected in Guadeloupe by G. K. Noble in 1914.

The other specimen, also in fine condition, no. 2697, is wholly different, not only from the Guadeloupe form but from all other known members of the genus, as well. It is a pale yellowish brown bird, not unlike *C. r. pavida* Ridgway of St. Kitts in color, but with a very long bill (*pavida* is a short-billed form). The bill is as long as in the longest-billed form in the genus,—*C. macrorhyncha* of St. Lucia,—but the coloration is very different from that of that species.

L'Herminier either himself collected in Marie Galante or, while in Guadeloupe, received specimens from there from the

natives, since he got the burrowing owl, which formerly inhabited Marie Galante but which is said never to have been found in Guadeloupe. Almost certainly, however, Marie Galante, which is a low, dry island with a sandy soil, never supported a forest suited to the trembler, even before it was cleared and converted into cane fields.

Possibly the bird came from one of the Isles des Saintes, or more likely still from Desirade. Desirade, although only a few miles off shore from Guadeloupe, has some reptiles peculiar to it, one *Anolis* in particular being very distinct. We know nothing of the birds of Desirade.

At all events, the old Lafresnaye specimen cannot be referred to any known form, and so, in spite of uncertainty as to the island from which it came, I shall have to call it

### ***Cinclocerthia ruficauda sola* subsp. nov.**

*Type*, no. 76,364, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; no. 2697, Lafresnaye Collection; "Guadeloupe" (an error,—probably some small island near Guadeloupe, possibly Desirade); collected by l'Herminier.

*Characters*.—A large, light-colored form with a very long bill.

*Color*.—Decidedly paler, more russet brown above, and much paler, more wood brown to Isabella-color, below, than in *C. r. tremula* (Lafresnaye) of Guadeloupe.

Measurements: Wing, 108; tail-feathers, 84; tarsus, 30; bill to base of forehead, 44; exposed culmen, 37 mm.

Unhappily, the Guadeloupe trembler is now either extinct or on the very verge of extinction. This bad news was given Dr. Thomas Barbour last winter when he visited the Island, by Mr. Breta, Director of the local Musée l'Herminier, who in the last few years, since the great abundance of the mongoose, has been unable to find a single living trembler. Mr. Breta is afraid that the same fate has also overtaken *Cicblberminia berminieri*, *Troglodytes guadeloupensis* and *Margarops fuscatus densirostris*, none of which he now sees in the woods of Guadeloupe.

The trembler belongs to the relict fauna of the Lesser Antilles; several of the forms are probably now extinct and the others, I am afraid, are in grave danger.

A direct synonym of *Cinclocerthia ruficauda tenebrosa* Ridgway, the St. Vincent trembler, is *Cinclocerthia walteri* Gerald H. Thayer ("Walter's Trembler," a Communication. The Sentry [newspaper], Kingston, St. Vincent, B. W. I., March 13, 1925). I mention this here, while on the subject of tremblers, because a description published in a local newspaper may so easily be overlooked.