

A SECOND SPECIMEN OF CORY'S BITTERN
(*BOTAURUS NEOXENUS*).

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

MR. J. F. MENGE of Fort Meyers, Florida, spent a portion of the month of July, 1889, in exploring parts of Lake Okeechobee and the region immediately south of that body of water. During this trip on three occasions he met with this little known species (*Botaurus neoxenus*), and though he had but poor facilities for preserving and taking care of birds, he secured one of the individuals in question, which has come into my possession through the kindness of my friend Mr. J. W. Atkins of Key West. This bird, No. 3237 of my catalogue, is apparently an adult male, and was taken on July 9, 1889, at a point some thirty miles south of Lake Okeechobee and ten miles east of a point known as Sam Jones Old Town.

The region, from the account given by Mr. Menge, is very like that frequented by *Botaurus exilis*, being a large 'saw grass' on the edge of two large ponds, where the surface of the water is covered to a great extent with the large leaves of a kind of water-lily. The bird was first observed walking about on these leaves, and being disturbed, retreated to the 'saw grass' but presently, re-appearing, was secured.

As this is the second known representative of this species in any collection a brief description of the individual seems warranted. The entire upper surface, sides of head and neck and face, lower tail-coverts, outer surface of wing, except the coverts, are deep greenish black, similar in shade to the back of an adult male *Botaurus exilis*. This color is also the general tone of the belly, sides, and flanks, though a few whitish and some chestnut feathers are mixed with the prevailing color. The lower surface of the neck and the throat are bright chestnut. The greater, median, and lesser wing-coverts are dark like the back at their bases, but shade into deep chestnut terminally. The inner surface of the wing-feathers is drab. The edge of the wings at the shoulder and reaching to the base of the first primary, is light chestnut. The general appearance of the bird is dark greenish black, and Mr. Menge in speaking of the birds well calls them "Black Bitterns."

In size the bird is very near *Botaurus exilis*, perhaps a trifle smaller than the average of that species.

The following measurements are all taken from the dry skin before me. Length, 11.50 inches; wing, 4.60; culmen, 2.00; tarsus, 1.60.

From the meagre biographical notes that Mr. Menge was able to make, it would appear that the habits of *Botaurus neoxenus* are very like those of *B. exilis*.

A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF THE GULF COAST OF FLORIDA.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

(Continued from p. 252.)

Milvulus forficatus. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—For notes on this species see Auk, Vol. VI, No. 2, April, 1889, p. 161. Mr. Atkins writes me that he has examined a single bird of this kind, taken at Miami by A. Lechevallier, but with no sex or date on the label.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—A common migrant and a few remain to breed. Not recorded during the winter months. The species arrives about Tarpon early in April (1-10) and the latest fall notes recorded are in the first week of October.

Mr. Atkins says, "Arrives at Punta Rassa going north the latter part of March. Occasionally found there until April 26. Young male birds taken August 20. Key West, first arrival noted March 20, last seen April 12. August 30 reappeared at Key West in large flocks, and was more or less common until October 15, after which the birds were not seen.

Tyrannus dominicensis. GRAY KINGBIRD.—An abundant migrant, and breeds in great numbers on the keys off the coast, affecting particularly such as are covered with mangrove. The earliest record I have of its arrival about Tarpon Springs is April 23, 1887, and the birds are common till late in September. The eggs are laid in this vicinity from about the middle to the last of May, and but one brood appears to be reared.

Mr. Atkins's notes are as follows: "Arrives at Punta Rassa middle of April; nests commonly on the islands and along the shore in mangrove bushes. Seems to prefer an isolated tree or bush near the water. Last noted at Punta Rassa September 13. Arrives at Key West about April 11. A few breed here. The main body returns with *Tyrannus tyrannus* and passes southward with that species."