

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *MIMOCICHLA*, FROM THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA, WEST INDIES.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

Through the kindness of Professor A. E. Verrill, of Yale College, New Haven, I have had recently an opportunity to examine a very complete collection of the land birds of the Island of Dominica, West Indies, made by Professor Verrill's sons, Messrs. Alpheus H. and George E. Verrill, who collected in Dominica for several months during 1890.

Among the rarities of the collection are two specimens of a *Mimocichla*, new to science, and forming the first specimens of the genus known from the Lesser Antilles.

*Mimocichla verrillorum*, sp. nov.

*Thrush?* LAWRENCE, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. I, 1878, p. 53.

Similar to *M. ardosciacea* of San Domingo and Porto Rico, but much smaller, with much more white on the tail, and with the abdomen strong buff instead of plumbeous fading into white.

*Adult male.* (Collector's No. 102, Lasswa, Dominica, April 11, 1890; G. E. and A. H. Verrill.)—Above general color nearly uniform dark slate-gray, the feathers of the head with slightly darker centres; lores black; wings black, the coverts and all of the quills broadly edged with slate-gray, lighter than the color of the back, especially on the greater coverts and primaries; tail black, the basal half of the middle feathers externally edged with gray, and all broadly tipped with white except the middle pair, which shows only a faint trace of white at the extreme tip; the outer feather on each side has the inner vane white for more than half its length, the amount of white regularly diminishing on the inner pairs to the fifth, on which it forms a central triangular patch at the end about half an inch in length. Chin, cheeks and throat white, broadly streaked with black; breast and flanks slate gray, much lighter than the back; abdomen white, strongly washed with buff; crissum pure white. Bill and feet bright yellow.

Length (from skin) about 10.50 in.; wing, 4.60; tail, 4.50; culmen, .85; tarsus, 1.50.

*Adult female.* (Collector's No. 103, Lasswa, Dominica, April 11, 1890.)—Slightly smaller than the male, with the breast paler, and the abdomen more deeply tinted with yellowish buff.

This species finds its nearest relative in *Mimocichla ardosciacea* of Porto Rico and Santo Domingo, holding somewhat the same relation to it, as regards the color of the ventral surface that *M. rubripes* holds to *M. plumbea*. The wing and tail are each fully three-fourths of an inch shorter in *M. verrillorum* than in *M. ardosciacea*; the culmen is also shorter; but the tarsi are slightly longer and the wing appreciably more rounded. The white in the tail is much purer, and twice greater in extent, tipping the outer five pairs of feathers instead of being confined to the outer four, as in the other species of the genus, and occupying considerably more than the apical half of the outer feather.

This is evidently the bird mentioned by Mr. Ober as "described [to him] by several persons, something like a Thrush, but with yellow bill and legs," and enumerated by Mr. Lawrence\* as "5. 'Thrush'?" According to the Messrs. Verrill, the bird is well known to the natives of the island, who call it *Perro vanter*; they, however, esteem it very rare and extremely difficult to get.

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## SOME BIRD SKELETONS FROM GUADALUPE ISLAND.†

BY FREDERIC A. LUCAS.

By the kindness of Dr. C. Hart Merriam I some time ago came into the possession of several bird skeletons collected at Guadalupe Island, off the coast of Lower California, by Mr. Walter E. Bryant. Guadalupe Island is of peculiar interest from the fact that it seems to have been separated from the mainland only long enough for its fauna to have taken the first steps toward differentiation, the number of peculiar species being very small, and the number even of sub-species limited. In this respect Guadalupe differs vastly from the Galapagos Islands, where specific differentiation has proceeded so far that each island has its own char-

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\* Catalogue of the Birds of Dominica from Collections made for the Smithsonian Institution by Frederic A. Ober, together with his Notes and Observations. By George N. Lawrence. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1, 1878, pp. 48-69.

†Read at the Washington meeting of the A. O. U., Nov., 1890.