

## A REVIEW OF THE GRACKLES OF THE GENUS HOLOQUISCALUS.

BY JAMES L. PETERS.

THE Grackles of the genus *Holoquiscalus* comprise several closely related species and subspecies limited in their distribution to certain islands in the West Indies and the Caribbean coast of South America.

It has always been customary to treat each one of these insular forms specifically, but I believe that the group falls naturally into four species, each with one or more geographic races, as I shall shortly endeavor to demonstrate.

The genus is not represented in the Bahamas; and there is a considerable gap in its distribution including the Virgin Islands and extending southward into the Lesser Antilles until Guadeloupe is reached; and for some inexplicable reason no representative is found on Dominica.

The Museum of Comparison Zoology is very fortunate in the quantity and quality of its West Indian material, and consequently it has not been necessary to draw on other institutions for loan of skins except to borrow a single specimen of the female of *Holoquiscalus insularis* (Richmond) from the U. S. National Museum. It has not been possible to borrow any skins of *H. orquillensis* nor have the types of *H. mexicanus* or *H. rectirostris* been seen by me.

Thanks are due to Dr. C. W. Richmond, Asso. Curator of Birds, U. S. National Museum for the loan of a female of *Holoquiscalus l. insularis*, and to Mr. T. E. Penard for verifying several references and for calling my attention to several others.

### Genus **Holoquiscalus** Cassin.

*Holoquiscalus* was proposed by Cassin (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila, 1866, 404) as a subgenus to include the following species at that time included in *Quiscalus*, *Q. baritus*, *Q. niger*, *Q. inflexirostris* and *Q. lugubris*. At the same time he described two other species known only from the type specimens still in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, viz: *Q. mexicanus* and *Q. rectirostris*.

Gray in the 'Handlist of Birds of the British Museum' (Vol. II, 1870, p. 38) followed Cassin, so did Sclater in the 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum' (Vol. XI, 1886, p. 394).

Ridgway in 1901 (Proc. Wash. Acad. Nat. Sci. Apr. 15, 1901, p. 151) elevated the subgenus to full generic rank and as such it has been recognized by most writers since that time, although many European ornithologists still cling to *Quiscalus* for this group.

*Holoquiscalus* is a remarkably even genus as far as external characters show. There is more or less variation in the shape of the bill, but nothing sufficiently great to warrant the creation of even sub-genera. In two species the females are different from the males in color, the young males passing through the plumage of the female before assuming that of the adult.

The shape of the palatal keel shows some variation; the general type exhibited is that of a compressed median ridge lowering posteriorly, there becoming broad, rounded, but sharper anteriorly. It is in the height of the anterior portion and in the angle there formed with the palate that any variation occurs. Suitable alcoholic material is necessary however, to determine the variation in the different forms.

Nearly all authors speak of the peculiar shape of the tail in flight; it is expanded vertically to a depth of three or four inches. I am rather inclined to believe that this plication may be permanent in all the species; from experience with birds in the flesh I know it to be so in *H. j. gundlachii* and *H. n. niger*.

A key to the species and subspecies does not bring out the relationships, and for this reason the following diagnosis is appended to make clear my point.

*Holoquiscalus jamaicensis* and subspecies. Moderate sized Quiscalinae the body brilliant glossy violet black or steel blue; females similar to the males but smaller, gloss less brilliant but present.

*Holoquiscalus niger* and subspecies. Averaging smaller than *H. jamaicensis*; the body glossy black; females similar but smaller and duller.

*Holoquiscalus lugubris* and subspecies. Rather small Quiscalinae, the males resembling *H. jamaicensis* in color; females dark smokey brown above, lighter below, becoming almost white on the throat.

*Holoquiscalus fortirostris* and subspecies. Males similar to the corresponding sex of *H. lugubris* but smaller; females similar to the males but smaller, the metallic gloss much duller and washed with deep sooty brown.

***Holoquiscalus jamaicensis jamaicensis*, (DAUDIN).**

- Monedula tota nigra* SLOAN, Jamaica 2, p. 299, pl. 257, f. 2, 1725.  
*Merops niger, iride subargentea*, BROWN, Jamaica, p. 476, 1756.  
*Pica jamaicensis*, BRISSON, Orn., 2, p. 41, 1760.  
Boat-tailed Grackle, LATHAM, Syn. 1, 2, p. 460, n. 5, t. 18, 1782.  
[*Gracula barita*, LINN., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, 1, p. 165, 1766.—GMEL, Syst. Nat. 1, 1788, p. 396.—WAGLER, Syst. Av., 1827.  
*Quiscalus baritus*, VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. 28, 1819, p. 487.—CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., p. 405, 1866.  
[*Quiscalus*] *baritus*. BONAPARTE, Consp. Av. 1, 1850 p. 425.—GRAY H. L., Birds Br. Mus. 2, 1870, p. 38.  
[*Quiscalus baritus*] var. *baritus*, BAIRD, BREWER & RIDGWAY Hist. N. Am. Bird. 2, 1874, p. 213.  
*Sturnus barita*, DAUDIN, Traité d'Orn., 2, 1800, p. 320.  
*Sturnus jamaicensis*, DAUDIN, Traité d'Orn. 2, 1800, p. 317.  
*Quiscalus crassirostris*, SWAINSON, Anim. in Menag, 1838. p. 355.  
GOSSE, Birds Jan., 1847, p. 217; Ills. Birds Jan., 1849, pl. 53.—SCLATER Cat. of Am. Birds, 1862 p. 359.—ALBRECHT, J. & O., 1862, p. 197.—MARCH, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1863, p. 298.—SCLATER, Ibis, 1884, p. 159; Cat. Birds Br. Mus. 11, 1886, p. 398.—CORY, Auk, 3, 1886, p. 225; Birds of the W. I., 1889, p. 111; Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, p. 15, 111, 130.—SCOTT, Auk, 10, 1893, p. 179.—FIELD, Auk, 11, 1894, p. 126.—NICOLL, Ibis, 8th ser. 4, 1904, p. 577.—MAYNARD, Birds of the W. I., 1901, p. 19.—SCLATER, Handbook of Jamaica, 1910 (Reprinted, p. 2).  
[*Quiscalus*] *crassirostris*, BONAPARTE, Consp. Av. 1, 1850, p. 425.—GRAY, Gen. Birds, 1845, p. 341; (A. & E.) NEWTON, Handbook Jam., 1881, p. 103.  
[*Quiscalus*] *crassirostris* SCLATER & SALVIN, Nom. Av. Neo., 1873, p. 38.—CORY, Birds of the W. I., 1885, p. 14; do, rev. ed., 1886, p. 14.  
[*Quiscalus*] *vulgaris* TEMMINCK, Table Méth., 1838, 10.  
Sc[*aphedurus*] *crassirostris* BONAPARTE, Consp. Av. 1, 1850, p. 426.  
*Holoquiscalus jamaicensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. 3, Apr. 15, 1901, p. 151; Birds of N. & M. Am. (Bull 50, U. S. N. M.) 2, 1902, p. 227.—SHARPE, H. L. of Birds, 5, 1909, p. 509.  
*Holoquiscalus jamaicensis jamaicensis* TODD, Ann. Carn. Mus. 10, Jan. 31, 1916, 280.—BANGS & KENNARD, Handbook of Jamaica, 1920.  
*Description*.—Adult male: above and below glossy violet black, the abdomen and upper and lower tail coverts inclining to steely blue, shading into greenish at the tips; wing coverts bronze-green, the lesser series

tipped with steel-blue or purplish; upper surface of the quills glossed with greenish bronze, particularly on the secondaries; under surface of quills dull black; shafts black. Wing, 146.5–151 mm. (148.8); tail, 135.5–143 mm. (136.67); bill (from base), 31.5–34.5 mm. (33.66).

Adult female: Similar to the male but smaller, the violaceous gloss less brilliant and frequently with a distinct steel-blue suffusion; rump and upper tail coverts usually with this color predominating; abdomen dull black. Wing, 124–133 mm.; tail, 115–130 mm.; bill (from base), 29–30.5. Bill and feet black; iris "cream-white" (Gosse).

*Type locality*.—Jamaica.

*Range*—Island of Jamaica, West Indies.

*Material*—Eighteen skins, all adults, 11 males and 7 females, all in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*. The history of this form goes back to the first half of the 18th century. As early as 1725 Sir Hans Sloan describes and figures<sup>1</sup> a bird presumably of this species, but as his description is insufficient and his figure barely recognizable as that of a bird his species cannot be identified with any degree of certainty. Dr. Patrick Brown in his account of Jamaica<sup>2</sup> furnishes a somewhat meagre, albeit quite recognizable description of the form now under consideration under the caption, of "Merops niger, iride subargentea." Brisson bases his *Pica jamaicensis* on Brown. [*Graculia*] *barita* of the 10th edition of Linnaeus is founded on Rolander, no references are given and there are several discrepancies in the description. Whatever the bird of the 10th edition may be it is not the Jamaican bird and should not be included in its synonymy. In the 12th edition however references are given to Sloan and to *Icterus niger* of Brisson, completely changing the status of the name "barita."

The name which this species now bears was given by Daudin in 1800, based on Brown's "Merops niger, iride subargentea," a name however which was not generally used until set up by Ridgway (Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. 3, Apr. 15, 1901. p. 151) the name *crassirostris* given by Swainson in 1838, (Anim. Menag. p. 355) having been in general use by most authors up to 1901.

<sup>1</sup> A voyage to the islands of Madeira, Barbadoes Nieves, St. Christopher and Jamaica with the Natural History of the herbs and trees, four-footed beasts, fishes, birds, insects, etc. of the last of these islands, Sloan H., 1707. London

<sup>2</sup> The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica, Brown, Patrick, 1756, London.

**Holoquiscalus jamaicensis gundlachii** (CASSIN)

- Quiscalus versicolor* (not of Vieillot) VIGORS,<sup>1</sup> Zool. Journ. 3, no. 11, 1827, 442.
- Q[uiscalus] versicolor* (not of Vieillot) LEMBEYE,<sup>1</sup> Aves de la Isla de Cuba, 1850, 131.
- Quiscalus barytus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) D'ORBIGNY<sup>1</sup> in La Sagras Hist. Nat. De Cuba, Ois. 1839, 120, pl. 18<sup>2</sup>.
- Quiscalus baritus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) THIENEMAN.<sup>1</sup> J. f. O. 1857 151.
- Q[uiscalus] Barytus* (not of Linn.) LEMBEYE,<sup>1</sup> Aves de la Isla de Cuba, 1850, 131.
- Chalcophanes baritus* (not of Linn.) GUNDLACH<sup>1</sup>, J. f. O., 1856, 15.
- Ch[alcophanes] baritus* CABANIS,<sup>1</sup> Mus. Hein. 1, Sept., 1851, 197 (excl. syn.)
- Calcophanes baritus* (not of Linn.) BREWER,<sup>1</sup> Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1860, 307.
- Quiscalus gundlachii* CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1866, 406.—CORY,<sup>1</sup> Auk 3, 1886, 226.—SCLATER,<sup>1</sup> Cat. Birds Br. Mus. 11, 1886, 398.—CORY, Birds of the W. I., 1889, 113; Cat. W. I. Birds,<sup>1</sup> 1892, 15, 111, 129, 147.—STONE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1899, 35.—MAYNARD,<sup>1</sup> Cat. Birds W. I., 1903, 19.
- [Quiscalus gundlachii [=ii]]* GUNDLACH,<sup>1</sup> Orn. Cub., 1895, 124.
- [Quiscalus] gundlachii* GRAY,<sup>1</sup> H.L. 2, 1870, 38, no. 6257.
- [Quiscalus baritus]* var. *Gundlachi*, BAIRD, BREWER & RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> Hist. No. Am. Birds, 2, 1874, 213.
- [Quiscalus] gundlachi*, CORY, Birds of the W. J., 1885, 14<sup>1</sup> (rev. ed., 1886, 14<sup>1</sup>).
- Quiscalus gundlachi* SCLATER,<sup>1</sup> Ibis, 1884, 159.—CHAPMAN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1892, 306 (Trinidad, Cuba).
- Chalcophanes gundlachii* GUNDLACH,<sup>1</sup> J. f. O. 1874, 135; Orn. Cub.<sup>1</sup>, 1876, 102.
- [Chalcophanes] gundlachii* GUNDLACH,<sup>1</sup> Sup. Orn. Cub., 1876, 270.
- Holoquiscalus gundlachii* RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. 3, April 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am.<sup>1</sup> 2, 1902, 224, 226, part (Cuba).
- Holoquiscalus gundlachi* MENEGAUX,<sup>1</sup> Bull. Mus. Nat. de France, 1909, 237.—SHARPE,<sup>1</sup> H.-L. of Birds, 1909, 509, part (Cuba).
- Holoquiscalus jamaicensis gundlachii* TODD, Ann. Carn. Mus. 10, nos. 1 & 2, Jan. 31, 1916, 280.
- Description*.—Adult male: Similar to *H. j. jamaicensis*, but violaceous gloss somewhat more in ense and extending farther on the underparts. Slightly smaller, bill longer and more slender. Wing, 144–155 mm. (147.5); tail, 132.5–143 mm. (136.1); bill (from base), 34–37.5 mm. (36). Adult female: Similar to the male but smaller; gloss less brilliant and

<sup>1</sup> These references may refer either to *H. j. gundlachii* or to *H. j. caribaeus*.<sup>2</sup> This plate is not certainly identifiable.

inclining to steel blue. Wing, 124.5–132 mm. (127.9); tail, 118–129 mm. (121.9); bill (from base), 29–31 mm. (30.6).

The female of this species may be distinguished from that of the preceding by smaller size, and longer and more slender bill. Bill, legs and feet, black; iris, yellow.

*Type locality*.—Eastern Cuba.

*Range*.—Eastern Cuba (Nipe Bay Region,<sup>1</sup> Holquin,<sup>2</sup> Guantanamo,<sup>3</sup> Guanaja,<sup>3</sup> Baracoa<sup>2</sup>) and Central Cuba (Remedios<sup>1</sup> & Trinidad<sup>2</sup>).

*Material*.—20 specimens, 11 males, 9 females, all in Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*. There are very few references in literature to Gundlach's Grackle prior to 1866 when Cassin described it as distinct and all these references were either to *Quiscalus versicolor* of Vieillot (= *Quiscalus quiscula* subsp?) or to *Quiscalus baritus* (= *Gracula barita* Linn.) a blanket name for all birds of this genus (*Holoquiscalus*) but which has no applicability whatever to birds from Cuba.

In 1916 Todd described as subspecifically distinct the bird from western Cuba and the Isle of Pines and in his paper determined the type locality of *gundlachii* to be eastern Cuba.

Intergradation between the eastern and western races is perfect; a male from eastern Cuba approaches *caribaeus* and two males from western Cuba approach *gundlachii*.

#### ***Holoquiscalus jamaicensis caribaeus* (TODD)**

*Quiscalus versicolor* (not of Vieillot) VIGORS,<sup>3</sup> Zool. Journ. **3**, no. 11, 1827, 442.

*Q[uiscalus] versicolor* (not of Vieillot) LEMBEYE,<sup>3</sup> Av. de l' Isl. de Cuba, 1850, 131.

*Quiscalus barytus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) D'ORBIGNY<sup>3</sup> in La Sagra's Hist. Nat. Cuba Ois., 1839, 120, pl. 18<sup>4</sup>; Poey in Hist. Nat. de Cuba, pt. 38, June, 1854, 426–427 (Isle of Pines).

*Quiscalus baritus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) THIENEMANN,<sup>3</sup> J. f. O., 1857, 151.

*Q[uiscalus] Barytus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) LEMBEYE,<sup>3</sup> Ave d. l. Isla de Cuba, 1850, 131.

*Chalcophanes baritus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) GUNDLACH,<sup>3</sup> J. f. O., 1856, 15.

*Ch[alcophanes] baritus* CABANIS,<sup>3</sup> Mus. Hein. **1**, Sept., 1851, 197 (excl. syn.)

<sup>1</sup> Specimens from these localities in M. C. Z.

<sup>2</sup> Todd, Am. Cam. Mus. **10**, no. 1 & 2, 1916, 278.

<sup>3</sup> References so marked may refer either to *H j. gundlachii* or to *H j. caribaeus*.

<sup>4</sup> This plate is not certainly identifiable.

- Calcophanes baritus* BREWER,<sup>1</sup> Proc. B. S. N. H. **7**, 1860, 307.
- Quiscalus gundlachi* CORY,<sup>1</sup> Auk **3**, 1886, 226.—SCLATER,<sup>1</sup> Cat. Bird Br. Mus., **11**, 1886, 398.—CORY,<sup>1</sup> Birds of the W. I., 1889, 113; Cat. W. I. Birds,<sup>1</sup> 1892, 15, 111, 129, 147 part (Cuba).—GUNDLACH,<sup>1</sup> Orn. Cub., 1895, 124.—MAYNARD,<sup>1</sup> Cat. Birds W. I., 1903, 19.
- [*Quiscalus gundlachi*], GRAY<sup>1</sup> H. L. **2**, 1870, 38, no. 6257.
- [*Quiscalus baritus*] var. *gundlachi* BAIRD, BREWER & RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> Hist. N. Am. Birds, **2**, 1874, 213.
- [*Quiscalus gundlachi*], CORY,<sup>1</sup> Birds of the W. I., 1885, 14 (do<sup>1</sup> rev. ed., 1886, 14).
- Quiscalus gundlachi*<sup>1</sup> SCLATER, Ibis, 1884, 159.
- Chalcophanes gundlachi*<sup>1</sup> GUNDLACH, J. f. O., 1874, 135; Orn. Cub.<sup>1</sup>, 1876, 102.
- Holoquiscalus gundlachi* RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. **3**, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds, N & M. Am. **2**, 1902, 227 part (Cuba).
- Holoquiscalus gundlachi* (not of Cassin) BANGS & ZAPPEY, Am. Nat. **39**, 1905, 211 (Isle of Pines).
- Holoquiscalus Gundlachi* MENEGAUX,<sup>1</sup> Bull. Mus. Nat. de France, 1909, 237.
- Holoquiscalus gundlachi* SHARPE,<sup>1</sup> H.-L. of Birds, 1909, 509, part (Cuba & Isle of Pines).
- Holoquiscalus caymanensis dispar* (not of Clark!) TODD, Ann. Carn. Mus. **10**, nos. 1 & 2, Jan. 31, 1916, 276.
- Holoquiscalus caymanensis caribaeus* TODD, do, erratum insert opp. p. 276, nom. nov. for *dispar* preoccupied.
- Description*.—Adult male: Similar to *H. j. gundlachi*, but smaller; the gloss with steel blue sheen predominating; in some specimens all trace of violaceous is lacking.
- Wing, 137–146 (140.5) mm.; tail, 121–136 (127.8) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 32.5–37 (34.55) mm. Adult female: similar to the male but smaller and less brilliantly glossed. Differs from the female of the foregoing in being smaller and with steel blue gloss much more pronounced.
- Wing, 122–128 (125.25) mm.; tail, 109.5–116.5 (112.75) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 29.5–31.5 (30.7) mm. Bill, legs and feet black. Iris cream (Zappey, on label).
- Type locality*.—Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines.
- Range*.—Western Cuba (Bolandron, Cojimar, Pinar del Rio, Mariano, El Guama) and Isle of Pines.
- Material*.—25 skins, 16 males and 9 females, all in Museum of Comparative Zoology.
- Remarks*.—Although Bangs and Zappey (Am. Nat. **39**, 1905, 211) pointed out some differences between the Isle of Pines and

<sup>1</sup> References so marked may refer either to *H. j. gundlachi* or to *H. j. caribaeus*.

Cuban grackles, the true status of the relationships was not made clear until established by Todd (Ann. Carn. Mus. 10, 1 & 2, 1916, 276.) a few years ago. The large violet-shaded males of eastern Cuba are recognizable at a glance from the steel-blue birds from western Cuba and the Isle of Pines. The difference between the females is less striking but nevertheless quite pronounced.

There are very few cases in the literature that can be definitely linked up with either race; most of them refer merely to "Cuba" and such references must be quoted in the synonymy of both races with a query. Only when the reference is contained in a local list can the identity of a particular form be definitely established.

***Holoquiscalus jamaicensis bangsi*, subsp. nov**

*Quiscalus gundlachi* (not of Cassin) CORY, Auk 6, 1889, 31. (Cayman Brac).—NICOLL, Ibis, 8th ser., 4, 1904, 587.

*Quiscalus gundlachi* CORY, Cat. Birds of the W. I., 1892, 111, 147 (Excl. Cuba).

*Holoquiscalus gundlachii* RIDGWAY, Birds of N. & M. Am. 2, 1902, 226 (excl. Cuba and Isle of Pines).

*Holoquiscalus gundlachi* LOWE, Ibis, 9th ser., 5, 1911, p. 161.

*Holoquiscalus caymanensis caribaeus* (not of Todd) BANGS, Bull. M. C. Z. 60, no. 7, March, 1916, 317.

*Type*.—No. 68025, Museum of Comparative Zoology, adult male, Cayman Brac, West Indies, collected June 28, 1911, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *H. j. jamaicensis* (Daudin) but smaller; bill longer and fully as stout; violaceous gloss less brilliant, the steel blue tinge on the abdomen extending to the lower breast; throat faintly washed with blue; upper parts with an almost imperceptible bluish tinge.

*Measurements* (in millimeters).—

No. M.C.Z.	Sex	Locality	Wing	Tail	Culmen (from base of forehead)
68025	♂	Cayman Brac.	147	130	35.
68024	♂	" "	143	127	35
68023	♂	" "	147	134	36
36484	♂	Little Cayman	141	126	39
68014	♂	Little Cayman	145	135.	34
68017	♂	" "	146.5	135.5	33
68018	♂	" "	144.5	130.	35.5
Average		7 adult males	145.	130.95	35.35



No. M. C. Z.	Sex	Locality	Wing	Tail	Culmen (from base of forehead)
36483	♀	Cayman Brac.	121	109	31
68028	♀	" "	129	112	31
68029	♀	" "	125	118.5	31
68030	♀	" "	121	109	31
68020	♀	Little Cayman	128	123	32
68021	♀	" "	124	110.5	30.5
68022	♀	" "	124	118.5	31
72097	♀	" "	118	107	31.5
Average		8 adult females	124.8	113.43	31.12

Females are similar to the males but very faintly glossed, often with a brownish wash on the under-parts and a trace of greenish bronze on the forehead. Bill, feet, and legs black.

*Range*.—Islands of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, W. I.

*Material*.—Eighteen specimens; 10 males and 8 females, all in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*.—Grackles from these two islands have until quite recently been referred to *gundlachi*. When Bangs was working up a collection of birds made in the Caymans by W. W. Brown he noticed the difference in birds from Little Cayman and Cayman Brac and had the species in manuscript when Todd's paper on the birds of the Isle of Pines came out. At the time he was correcting the proof of his paper and having no time to look into the matter, provisionally referred his bird to the Isle of Pines Grackle.

### **Holoquiscalus jamaicensis caymanensis** (CORY)

*Quiscalus caymanensis* CORY, Auk, **3** 1886, 499, 502.—RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. **10**, 1887, 574.—CORY, Auk, **5**, 1888, 158; Birds of the W. I., 1889, 291; Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 129, 147.—MAYNARD Cat. Birds of the W. I., Dec. 1, 1903, 19.—NICOLL, Ibis, 8th Ser., **4**, 1904, 581.

*Holoquiscalus caymanensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., **3**, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds of N. & M. America, **2**, 1902, 224, 229.—SHARPE H. L. of Birds, **5**, 1909, 510.—LOWE, Ibis, 9th Ser., **3**, 1909, 347, **5**, 1911, 143, 161.

*Holoquiscalus caymanensis caymanensis* TODD, Ann. Carn. Mus. **10**, nos. 1 & 2, Jan. 31, 1916, 277, 280, Bangs, Bull. M. C. Z. **60**, No. 7, March 1916, 317.

*Description*.—Adult male: Similar to *H. j. caribaeus* but much smaller, the bluish gloss with a purplish tinge.

Wing, 128–136 (130) mm.; tail, 112.5–118 (116.4) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 31–34 (32.87) mm.

Adult female: Similar to the male but smaller and duller colored, underparts washed with brown. Wing, 114.5 mm.; tail, 99.5 mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 28.5 mm. Bill, legs, and feet black; iris yellow (Richardson on label).

*Type locality*.—Island of Grand Cayman, W. I.

*Range*.—The same.

*Material*.—6 specimens, 4 adult and 1 young male, 1 adult female, all in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*.—The Great Cayman Grackle is the smallest of any of the Greater Antillean forms and this character combined with a very slender bill serve at once to identify it.

### **Holoquiscalus niger niger** (BODDAERT)

*Icterus niger* BRISSON, Ois. 2, 1760, 103 (Excl. pl. & fig.).—Le Troupiale noir, Buffon, Hist. Nat. des Ois. 3 (excl. refs. to Jamaica).

*Oriolus niger* BODDAERT, Table. Pl. Elumn. 1783, 31 (based on Le Troupiale noir de St. Domingue, Daubenton Pl. enl. pl. 534).—LATHAM, Ind. Orn. 1, 1790, 185.

*Icterus niger* TEMMINCK, Cat. Syst., 1807, 48.

*A[gelaius] niger* VIEILLOT, Enc. Meth. 2, 1823, 718.

*Quiscalus niger* CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1866, 407.—SCLATER, Ibis, 1884, 159; Cat. Birds Br. Mus. 11, 1886, 398.—CORY, Birds of Haiti & San. Dom., 1885, 73, pl. 22, f. 1; Auk, 3, 1886, 226; Birds of the W. I., 1889, 113; Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 131.—CHERRIE, Field Col. Mus. Orn. Series 1, 1896, 17.—MAYNARD, Birds of the W. I., 1903, 20; A. E. & A. H. VERRILL, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila. 61 1909, 362.

[*Quiscalus niger* GRAY, H.-L., 2, 1870, 38, no. 6529.—CORY, Birds of the W. I., 1885, p. 14; do, rev. ed. 1886, 14.

[*Quiscalus barilus*] var. *niger* BAIRD, BREWER & RIDGWAY, Hist. No. Am. Birds, 2, 1874, 213.

*Holoquiscalus niger* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am. 2, 1902, 225, 228.—SHARPE, H.-L. 5, 1909, 509.—PETERS, Bull. M. C. Z. 61, no. 11, Oct., 1917, 424.

*Holoquiscalus niger niger* TODD, Ann. Carn. Mus. 10, nos. 1 & 2, Jan. 31, 1916, 280.

*Quiscalus ater* "Baird" BRYANT, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 11, 1866, 94.—CORY Bull. N. O. C., 6, 1881, 153.—TRISTRAM, Ibis, 1884, 168.

*Quiscalus barita* "Gm" Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, 232.

*Quiscalur* sp? A. E. & A. H. Berrill, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 61, 1909, 362.

*Description*.—Adult male: uniform glossy black strongly washed on the rump and upper tail coverts with violaceous; retrices and secondaries externally glossed with dark greenish bronze. Wing, 126–142 (130.8) mm.; tail, 111–127.5 (118.6) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 31.5–34 (32.5) mm.

Adult female: similar to the male but smaller. Wing, 113.5–119.5 (118.2) mm. tail, 103–112 (107.4) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 29–31 (29.7) mm. Bill, legs and feet black; iris lemon yellow.

*Type locality*.—Island of Haiti. There can be little doubt that the original specimen which served as Daubenton's model for his plate of Le Troupiale Noir de St. Domingue came from the western end of the Island which at that time was a French colony. I, therefore, designate Port au Prince, Republic of Haiti, as the type locality of *Holoquiscalus niger niger*.

*Range*.—Island of Haiti (Republics of Haiti and Santo Domingo), Islands of Gonave (?) and Tortuga (?).

*Material*.—Eighteen adults, nine males and nine females, all in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*.—The Haitian Grackle is the smallest of any of the Greater Antillean forms. The strong violaceous or bluish gloss of *H. jamaicensis* and its allies is lacking; the bill moderate and almost straight. Early writers confused this species with the Jamaican bird. Brisson's *Icterus niger* is given as inhabiting "St. Domingue et Jamaica;" whatever his description may refer to his plate is almost certainly the stout billed Jamaican Grackle. Buffon likewise attributes the species to Haiti and Jamaica, adding to his text under the Troupiale noir that this bird is the same as *Icterus niger* of Brisson.

### ***Holoquiscalus niger brachypterus* (CASSIN)**

- Quiscalus baritus* (not *Gracula barita* Linn.) TAYLOR, *Ibis*, 1864, 168 (part).  
*Quiscalus crassirostris* (not of Swainson) BRYANT, *Proc. B. S. N. H.* **10**, 1866, 254.—GUNDLACH, *J. f. O.*, 1866, 188.—SUNDEVALL, *Öfv. K. Vet-Akad. Förh. Stock.* 1869, 598.  
*Quiscalus brachypterus* CASSIN, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, **18**, 1866, 406.—SCLATER, *Ibis*, 1884, 160; *Cat. Birds Br. Mus.*, **11**, 1886, 399.—CORY, *Auk*, **3**, 1886, 224; *Birds of the W. I.*, 1889, 111; *Cat. Birds of the W. I.* 1892, 15, 111, 132.—MAYNARD, *Cat. Birds of the W. I.*, 1903, 19.—BOWDISH, *Auk*, **19**, 1903, 12.  
[*Quiscalus*] *brachypterus* GRAY, *H.-L.* **2**, 1870, 38, no. 6528.—CORY, *List of the Birds of the W. I.*, 1885, 14; rev. ed., 1886, 14.—SCLATER & SALVIN, *Nom. Av. Neo.*, 1873, 38.  
[*Quiscalus baritus*] var. *brachypterus* BAIRD, BREWER & RIDGWAY, *Hist. No. Am. Birds*, **2**, 1874, 213.

- Chalcophanes brachypterus* GUNDLACH, J. f. O., 1874, 312; 1878, 177; Anal. Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat. 7, 1878, 213.
- Holoquiscalus brachypterus* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds of No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 224, 228.—SHARPE, H.-L. of Birds, 5, 1909, 509.—WETMORE, Bull. 326, U. S. Dept. Agriculture March 24, 1916, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 117; Auk, 33, 1916, 407, 419; 34, 1917, 54, 62.
- Holoquiscalus niger brachypterus* TODD., Ann. Carn. Mus. 10, nos. 1 & 2, 280.

*Description*.—Adult male: similar to *H. n. niger*, but slightly larger; more conspicuously glossed; bill stouter and strongly decurved terminally. Wing, 131.5–137 (133.8) mm.; tail, 114–130 (124.3) mm.; culmen, 31–34 (32.5) mm.

Adult female: similar to the male but smaller. Wing, 108.5–113 (110.8) mm.; tail, 103–108 (105) mm.; culmen, 27.5–29 (28.25) mm. Bill, legs and feet black; iris yellow.

*Type locality*.—North side of Porto Rico.

*Range*.—Islands of Porto Rico, Vieques, and Cubebra, W. I.

*Remarks*.—The Porto Rican Grackle is the last of the Greater Antillean forms; while reaching Cubebra<sup>1</sup> and Vieques<sup>2</sup> it does not extend its range to the other islands of the Virgin Group lying within view a short sail to the eastward; neither are there records for any other form of *Holoquiscalus* until Guadeloupe is reached, thus the gap includes the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and lesser islands and Cays) Sombrero, Saba, St. Eustacius, Anguilla, St. Martin, Barbuda, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Redonda and Montserrat.

### ***Holoquiscalus lugubris lugubris* (SWAINSON)**

?[*Gracula*] *barila* LINN. Syst. Nat. ed., 10, 1758, 109.

*Quiscalus lugubris* SWAINSON, Anim. in Menag, 1838, 299.—BURM, Syst. Ueb. 3, 1856, 283.—TAYLOR, Ibis, 6, 1864, 84.—CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1866, 408.—SCLATER, Cat. Am. Birds, 1862, 141; Ibis, 1884, 162; Cat. Birds Br. Mus., 11, 1886, 402.—CHAPMAN, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H., 6, 1894, 37.—PHELPS, Auk, 14, 1897, 364.—BERLEPSCH & HARTERT, Nov. Zool., 9, 1902, 33.—HELLMAYR, Nov. Zool. 13, 1906, 21.—BERLEPSCH, Nov. Zool., 15, 1908, 124.

*Q[uisicalus] lugubris* BONAPARTE, Consp. Av., 1, 1850, 424, 38.—PENARD & PENARD, De Vog. v. Guyana, 2, 1910, 380.

[*Quiscalus*] *lugubris* SCLATER & SALVIN, Nom. Av. Neot., 1873, 38.—GRAY, H.-L., 2, 1870, 38, no. 6526.

<sup>1</sup> Wetmore, Auk 33: 1910, 419.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, 34: 1917, 62.

*Chalcophanes lugubris* FINSCH, P. Z. S., 1870, 577.

*Ch[alcophanes] lugubris* CABANIS, Mus. Hein., 1, 1851, 197.

*Holoquiscalus lugubris* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am. 2, 1902, 225.—SHARPE, H.-L. 1909, 510.—BRABOURNE & CHUBB, The Birds of S. A., 1 (all published), Dec., 1912, 440.—CHERRIE, Bklyn. Inst. Mus. Sci. Bull., 2 (6), 1916, 211.

*Ch[alcophanes] jamaicensis* (not of Daudin) [=♂] CABANIS in Schomburgk's Reise, 3, 1848 (= 1849!) 683.

*Ch[alcophanes] minor* [=♀] do.; Mus. Hein., 1851, 197.

*Quiscalus barita* LEOTAUD, Ois Trin., 1860, 268.

*Quiscalus* sp.? TAYLOR, Ibis, 6, 1864, 84 (Br. Guiana).

*Description*.—Adult male: In general form and coloration resembling the adult males of *H. j. jamaicensis* but much smaller with more slender and decurved bill. Above and below glossy violet black becoming bluish on the greater and median series of wing coverts; secondaries, retrices and exposed margins of primaries strongly glossed with bronzen-green. Wing, 112.5–122 (117.25) mm.; tail, 106–115 (110) mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 29–30 (29.5) mm.

Adult female: Above dark smokey brown becoming sooty on the rump and upper tail coverts; quills blackish brown faintly glossed with greenish. Below light smoky-brown becoming blackish on the flanks and undertail coverts and shading into grayish brown on the throat. Bill, legs and feet black; iris pale yellow. (Berl. & Hart. Nov. Zool. 9, 1902, 33.)

*Type locality*.—"Brazil", Swainson. British Guiana substituted as type locality in place of Brazil by Berlepsch and Hartert, Nov. Zool., 9, 1902, 33, foot-note.

*Range*.—Trinidad & Tobago, French, British & Dutch Guiana, Venezuela.

*Remarks*.—It is possible though by no means certain that this is *Gracula barita* of the 10th edition of Linnaeus. In this edition Linnaeus first used the name for a bird based on Dr. Rolander, there are no references to any published works or plates, and the description has various discrepancies; the range given is "America," a rather large one but somewhat restricted by the statement that the bird devours bananas. It can be still further restricted when we know that Rolander visited Surinam and St. Eustatius. Rather than resurrect this old name of doubtful application, the use of which by early authors together with *Gracula barita* of the 12th edition has produced much confusion, I prefer to follow all recent authors in the employment of Swainson's name *lugubris*.

The type-locality "Brazil," given by Swainson was doubtless

an error and Berlepsch and Hartert<sup>1</sup> are quite right in substituting British Guiana. Hellmayr<sup>2</sup> in 1906 also substituted British Guiana for Brazil, a proceeding which was rendered unnecessary by reason of its having been done four years before.

### **Holoquiscalus lugubris insularis** (RICHMOND)

*Quiscalus insularis* RICHMOND, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., **18**, 1895, 675.—CLARK, Auk, **19**, 1902, 265.—LOWE, Ibis, 9th ser., **1**, 1907, 570.

*Holoquiscalus insularis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., **3**, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., **2**, 1902, 225.—CORY, Field Col. Mus., Orn. Ser. **1** (5) 231 (Los Testigos) 248 (Margarita Id.)—SHARPE, H.-L. of Birds **5**, 1909, 510.—BRABOURNE & CHUBB, Birds of S. A. **1** Dec. 1912, 440.

*Holoquiscalus luminosus* (not of Lawrence) LOWE, Ibis, 9th ser. **3** 1909, 321.

Adult male: Similar to *H. l. lugubris* but larger. Wing, 125 mm.; tail, 120 mm.; culmen (from base of forehead), 32 mm.

Adult female: Similar to adult female of *H. l. lugubris* but larger. Wing, 104 mm.; tail, 88.5 mm.; culmen, 27.25 mm. Feet, legs and bill black; iris pale yellow (Robinson on label).

*Type locality*.—Margarita Id., Coast of Venezuela.

*Range*.—Margarita Id., Los Testigos Ids.

*Material*.—Two specimens, 1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.<sup>3</sup>

*Remarks*.—The Margarita Grackle is an insular race with rather limited distribution. Lowe refers birds from the Testigos to *H. l. luminosus* with the remark that they are identical with Grenada birds, but Cory refers them to *insularis*, stating that they are somewhat intermediate. In all probability birds from the Testigos would be more nearly related to the Margarita form.

### **Holoquiscalus lugubris orquillensis** (CORY)

*Holoquiscalus orquillensis* CORY, Field Col. Mus., Orn. Ser., **1** (5), 227 (diagnosis), 254 (distribution).

*Holoquiscalus insularis* (not of Richmond) LOWE, Ibis, 9th ser., **3**, 1909, 321.

Adult male:<sup>4</sup> "Similar to *H. insularis* from Margarita, but differs in having the middle tail feathers almost plain black, not decidedly glossed with green as in that species; rest of the tail feathers showing a slight greenish gloss but much less than in *insularis*. The single female taken

<sup>1</sup> Nov. Zool. 9, 1902, 33. Footnote

<sup>2</sup> Nov. Zool. 13, 1906, 21,

<sup>3</sup> No. 151, 732, coll. U. S. N. M.

<sup>4</sup> Quoted from original description.

apparently does not differ from specimens from Margarita. Wing, 118.3; tail, 105; ex. culmen 26.7."

*Type locality*.—Orquilla (Los Hermanos Ids.), Caribbean Sea.

*Range*.—Orquilla.

*Material*.—No specimens of this race seen by me.

*Remarks*.—Lowe records eight specimens of this race taken on Orquilla during January, 1908, and gives the following measurements. Five males: wing 118 mm. tail 95 mm, exp. culm, 27. mm. Three females: wing 102 mm., tail 83 mm., exp. culm. 23 mm.

### **Holoquiscalus lugubris luminosus (LAWRENCE)**

*Quiscalus luminosus* LAWRENCE, Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., 1, July, 1878, 162; Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1, 1879, 270, 278, 487, 9; 1886, 615.—OBER, Camps in the Caribbees, 1880, 247.—SCLATER, Ibis, 1884, 161; Cat. Birds Br. Mus 11, 1886, 225.—CORY, Auk, 3, 1886, 225; Birds of the, W. I., 1889, 111; Cat. of W. I. Birds 1892, 15 —WELLS, Auk. 19 1902 346; H.-B. of Grenada, 1904, 147 (Grenada), 150. (Carriacou), reprinted (posth.) H.-B. of Grenada, 1907, 151, 154, 1916, 230, 233.—MAYNARD, Cat. of Birds of the W. I., Dec. 1903, 19.

[*Quiscalus luminosus* CORY, List of Birds of the W. I., 1885, 14, rev. ed 1886, 14.

*Holoquiscalus luminosus* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 225, 232.—CLARK, Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., 32 (7), 1905, 284 —SHARPE, H.-L., 5, 1909, 510.

*Quiscalus inflexirostris* (not of Swainson) CORY, Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 111, 146, part (Grenada, Grenadines).

*Description*.—Adult male: Similar to *H. l. insularis*, but bill much longer and more slender. Wing, 117–125.5 (121.9) mm.; tail, 109–115 (113) mm.; culmen, 34–36 (35) mm.

Adult female: Similar to the female of *H. l. insularis*, but a trifle paler both above and below; bill much longer and more slender. Wing, 99.5–105.5 (102) mm.; tail, 86.5–91 (88.3) mm.; culmen, 28–31.5 (30.25) mm. Bill, legs and feet black.

*Type locality*.—Grenada, W. I.

*Range*.—Grenada and the Grenadines (Carriacou, Union, Bequia, Petit Martinique, Mustique, Tobago Keys).

*Material*.—Fifty-three specimens, 35 males and 18 females, all in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks*.—The best character for the identification of this form is the long, much decurved and relatively slender bill.

Young females are much paler below than adult females, the throat practically white; young males resemble the females except for patches of sooty black feathers, particularly on the back and scapulars.

**Holoquiscalus lugubris inflexirostris** (SWAINSON)

*Quiscalus inflexirostris* SWAINSON, Anim. in Menag, 1838, 300, fig. 52.—CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 13, 1866, 407.—SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1874, 175, part (St. Lucia); Ibis, 1884, 160, part (St. Lucia); Cat. Birds Br. Mus., 11, 1886, 401, part (St. Lucia); CORY, Auk, 3, 1886, 224, part (St. Lucia); Birds W. I., 1889, 111 part (St. Lucia); Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 146, part (St. Lucia).—RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 12, 1890, 130.—MAYNARD, Cat. Birds W. I., Dec. 1, 1903, 19, part (St. Lucia).

[*Quiscalus*] *inflexirostris* BONAPARTE, Consp. Av. 1, 1850, 424.

[*Quiscalus*] *inflexirostris* GRAY, H.-L., 2, 1870, 38, no. 6525.—SCLATER AND SALVIN, Nom. Av. Neotr., 1873, 38, part (St. Lucia).—CORY, List Birds W. I., 1885, 14 (rev. ed., 1886, 14) part (St. Lucia).

*Holoquiscalus inflexirostris* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 225, 226, 230.—NICOLL, Ibis, 8th ser., 4, 561, 1904.—SHARPE, H.-L., 5, 1909, 510.—CLARK, W. I. Bulletin, 11 (3), 1911, 183.

*Quiscalus lugubris* (not of Swainson) SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1871, 271; Semper, 1872, 650.

*Quiscalus luminosus* (not of Lawrence) ALLEN, Bull. N. O. C., 5, 1880, 166.

Adult male: Similar to *H. l. luminosus* but with the bill shorter and stouter. Wing, 120–127.5 (122.12) mm.; tail, 104–118 (110.62) mm., culmen, 31–31.5 (31.12) mm.

Adult female: Similar to the adult female of the preceding but larger with shorter and stouter bill. Wing, 111.5 mm.; tail, 101 mm.; culmen, 27.5 mm. Bill, legs and feet black.

*Type locality*.—Described by Swainson in 1838 as “Inhabits ——?” Attributed in 1873 by Sclater and Salvin<sup>1</sup> to St. Lucia and Martinique. There can be little doubt that the bird described and bill figured by Swainson is the one in question.

*Range*.—Island of St. Lucia, West Indies.

*Material*.—Five specimens, 4 males and a female.

**Holoquiscalus lugubris guadeloupensis** (LAWRENCE)

*Quiscalus guadeloupensis* LAWRENCE, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1, Apr. 22 1879 457.—SCLATER Ibis, 1884, 160; Cat. Birds Br. Mus., 11, 1886, 401.—CORY, Ibis, 5th ser., 4, 1886, 474 (Marie Galante?); Auk, 3, 1886, 226, 8, 1891, 49; Birds W. I., 1889, 113; Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 147.—MAYNARD, Cat. W. I. Birds, Dec. 1, 1903, 19.

[*Quiscalus*] *guadeloupensis* CORY, List W. I. Birds, 1885, 14 (rev. ed., 1886, 14) (Guadeloupe).

*Holoquiscalus guadeloupensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr.

<sup>1</sup> Nom. Av. Neotr. 1873, 38.



15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 225, 226, 232.—SHARPE, H.-L., 5, 1909, 510.—NOBLE, Bull. M. C. Z., 60 (10), Aug., 1916, 383, 384.

*Holoquiscalus martinicensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 225, 226, 231.—MAYNARD, App. to Cat. Birds W. I., Dec. 1, 1903, 37.—SHARPE, H.-L., 5, 1909, 510.—NOBLE, Bull. M. C. Z., 60 (10), Aug. 1916, 383 (crit.).

*Quiscalus inflexirostris* (not of Swainson) LAWRENCE Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1, 1879, 355, 487.—SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1874, 175 part (Martinique); Ibis, 1884, 160 part (Martinique); Cat. Birds Br. Mus., 11, 1886, 401, part (Martinique).—CORY, Auk, 3, 1886, 224, part (Martinique); 4, 1887, 96 (Martinique) Separates published Feb. 3, 1887; Birds W. I., 1889, 111, part (Martinique); Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 146, part (Martinique) MAYNARD, Cat. Birds W. I., Dec. 1, 1903, part (Martinique).

?[*Quiscalus*] *inflexirostris* SCLATER & SALVIN, Nom. Av. Neotr., 1873, 38, part (Martinique).—CORY, List Birds W. I., 1885, 14 (rev. ed., 1886, 14) part (Martinique).

*Quiscalus mexicanus*<sup>2</sup> CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Sci. Phila., 13, Dec., 1866, 403.

*Description*.—Adult male: Similar to *H. l. inflexirostris* but smaller and with a much shorter and stouter bill. Wing, 118.5–125 (120.95) mm.; tail, 101.5–106 (103.5) mm.; culmen from base, 29–31 (29.5) mm.

Adult female: Similar to *H. l. inflexirostris* but smaller and paler, with a shorter and stouter bill. Wing, 102–107.5 (105.3) mm.; tail, 78–92 (84.8) mm.; culmen, from base, 24–27 (25.6) mm.

*Type locality*.—Island of Guadeloupe, West Indies.

*Range*.—Guadeloupe, Martinique, Marie Galante?

*Material*.—Twenty-one specimens, 13 males (8 ad. 5 jiw.), 8 females (some not quite adult).

*Remarks*.—Noble<sup>2</sup> places *Holoquiscalus martinicensis* in the synonymy of this species believing the difference between the two forms to be insufficient to warrant a distinction. In this conclusion I fully concur.

Young birds in the first plumage appear rather darker above and paler below than birds in the corresponding plumage of *luminosus*; this is particularly noticeable on the throat which in *guadeloupensis* is almost pure white.

### ***Holoquiscalus fortirostris fortirostris* (LAWRENCE)**

*Quiscalus fortirostris* LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1868, 360 428.—SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1874, 175; Ibis, 1878, 334; 1884

<sup>1</sup> cf. Ridgway, Birds No. & Mid. Am. 2, 1902, 231 foot note.

<sup>2</sup> Noble, Resident Birds of Guadeloupe, Bull. M. C. Z. 60 (10) 1916, 483.

161; Cat. Birds Br. Mus., **11**, 1886, 400.—CORY Ibis, 5th ser., **4**, 1886, 472; Auk, **3**, 1886, 223; Birds W. I., 1889, 111; Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 15, 111, 134, 146.—FEILDEN, Ibis, 6th Ser., **1**, 1889, 480, 485.—MAYNARD, Cat. Birds W. I., Dec. 1, 1903, 19.—Anon. W. I. Bull. **4**, 1903, 140.—BALLOU, W. I. Bull. **12**, 1912, 220.  
[*Quiscalus*] *fortirostris* GRAY, H.-L., **2**, 1870, 38, no. 6532.—SCLATER AND SALVIN, Nom. Av. Neotr., 1873, 38.—CORY, List Birds W. I., 1885, 14 (rev. ed., 1886, 14).

*Holoquiscalus fortirostris* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., **3**, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., **2**, 1902, 225, 230; NICHOL, Ibis, 8th ser., **4**, 1904, 557.—CLARK, Proc. B. S. N. H. **32** (7), Oct., 1905, 220, 227, 282.—SHARPE, H.-L., **5**, 1909, 510.

*Description*.—Adult male: Similar in general style and pattern of coloration to the males of the *H. lugubris* group but much smaller with a short, stout almost straight bill. Wing, 102–110 (105.8) mm.; tail, 91–107 (99.4) mm.; culmen from base, 26–28 (26.75) mm.

Adult female: Similar to the male but smaller in all measurements, metallic gloss duller and washed with deep sooty brown. Wing, 90.5–94.5 (93.1) mm.; tail, 86–91 (88.5) mm.; culmen, from base, 23–26 (24.25) mm. Bill, legs and feet black; iris “straw-yellow in adult, white in young,” Feilden.

*Type locality*.—Island of Barbadoes, W. I.

*Range*.—Island of Barbadoes, West Indies.

*Material*.—Ten specimens, 6 adult males, 4 adult females, all in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

### ***Holoquiscalus fortirostris dispar* (CLARK)**

*Holoquiscalus dispar* CLARK, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., **18**, Feb. 21, 1905, 61; Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., **32** (7), 1905, 284.

*Holoquiscalus inflexirostris* (not of Swainson) RIDGWAY, Birds No. & Mid. Am., **2**, 1902, 230, part (St. Vincent).—SHARPE, H.-L., **5**, 1909, 510, part (St. Vincent).

*Quiscalus inflexirostris* (not of Swainson) CORY, Cat. W. I. Birds, 1892, 111, 146, part (St. Vincent); Birds W. I., 189, 111 part (St. Vincent).

*Quiscalus* ? LAWRENCE, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., **1**, 1878, 191 (St. Vincent).

*Description*.—Adult male: Similar to adult male of *H. l. inflexirostris* but slightly smaller; tail longer. Wing, 119.5 mm.; tail, 121.5 mm.; culmen from base, 30.5 mm.

Adult female: Similar to adult female of *H. l. fortirostris* but blacker (less sooty above), browner (more sooty) below. Wing, 93–93.5 (93.25) mm.; tail, 89 mm.; culmen from base, 25 mm.

*Type locality*.—Kingstown, Island of St. Vincent, West Indies.

*Range*.—St. Vincent.

*Material*.—Three specimens, 1 adult male, 2 adult females (including the type). All in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

*Remarks.* — The status of this form appears to be somewhat uncertain. The material now before me is too meagre to form a basis for any definite conclusion but it seems to me not wholly improbable that two forms of *Holoquiscalus* occur on St. Vincent. The only male specimen is a fine highly colored adult, scarcely distinguishable from *H. l. inflexirostris*. He is larger than Barbadoes birds with a longer and relatively more slender and more curved bill. The females on the other hand are almost identical with females from Barbadoes, but bear not the slightest resemblance to any female specimen of the *lugubris* type.

***Holoquiscalus rectirostris* (CASSIN)**

*Quiscalus rectirostris* CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1866, 409.—SCLATER, Cat. Birds Br. Mus., 11, 1886, 400 (in syn. of *Quiscalus fortirostris* with a?).—STONE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, 35 (Syn. with *Quiscalus fortirostris*?).

[*Quiscalus*] *rectirostris* GRAY, H.-L., 2, 1870, 38, no. 6531.

*Holoquiscalus rectirostris* RIDGWAY, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., 3, Apr. 15, 1901, 151; Birds No. & Mid. Am., 2, 1902, 225, 233.—SHARPE, H.-L., 5, 1909, 510.

Adult male? "——— Black, entire plumage with a dark purple lustre

1 Original diagnosis.

very slightly changing to greenish on the wings and tail; bill and feet black

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Adult female: Unknown.

*Type locality.*—Unknown.

*Range.*—Unknown.

*Material.*—No specimens seen by me.

*Remarks.*—This species is known only from the type specimen in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and is said to be "quite distinct."<sup>2</sup>

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**GENERAL NOTES**

**American Common Tern Recovered in West Africa.**—A most striking example of the great value of systematic bird banding to ornithological science, has been recently received at the office of the Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

<sup>1</sup> cf. Ridgway, Birds No. & Mid. Am. 2, 1902, 233 foot note.