

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

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."²

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.

¹ cf. Ridgway, Birds No. & Mid. Am. 2, 1902, 233 foot note.

On July 3, 1913, Dr. John C. Phillips, of Wenham, Mass., banded one hundred juvenal Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, at Eastern Egg Rock, Muscongus Bay, Me., using American Bird Banding Association bands, numbered from 1201 to 1300, inclusive. Four years later, in August, 1917, a native of the village of Ikibiri, on the Nun branch of the Niger River delta, South Nigeria, West Africa, found one of these birds, number 1258, floating in the river, dead. He removed the band and carried it to the Rev. Oswald N. Garrard, of the Church Missionary Society at Patami, from whom the information was received. The native informed the Rev. Garrard that it was a matter of frequent occurrence at that time of the year to find these birds dead, in the river, although no evidence such as might account for this statement was forthcoming.

The almost cosmopolitan range of *Sterna hirundo* is, of course, a matter of common knowledge, but it has no doubt been generally assumed that it was the European breeding birds that wintered in Africa, while the North American colonies would, for the same reason, be presumably in South America at that season. This assumption is probably more or less correct although definite data of the character provided by number 1258 has been lacking. However, the case in question proves that occasionally, at least, North American birds of this species do make the trans-oceanic flight to Africa.

The date is also of peculiar significance, indicating that because of poor condition or other reason, the bird was a non-breeder or that it had bred early either in Europe or America (?) and had immediately moved back to its winter quarters. There is, of course, no information as to how long the bird had been dead when found, but it is extremely improbable that it had been so for more than a very few days or it would have been discovered and eaten by some carnivorous animal.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Swans on the Hudson River.—Four swans, apparently *Olor columbianus* (Ord) were observed February 19, from the window of a south-bound New York Central train. They were swimming in the open water at the end of a culvert which connects the Hudson river with a rather extensive bit of marsh about two miles north of Staatsburg, N. Y. The swans were on the marsh side of the culvert and seemed not to be disturbed by the train which passed within a few yards of them. A few crows were walking about on the ice near the swans and out in the river many ducks were seen.—S. C. BISHOP, *State Museum, Albany, N. Y.*

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Michigan Waters.—Three King Eiders spent the greater part of the winter in the St. Clair River and contiguous waters greatly to the delight and wonder of observing bird lovers. These handsome birds came down from the arctic about the middle of November and remained throughout December and the month of January. They were under observation much of the time and while