

words, whereas in most quills the shaft forms a ventral prominence in this instance the shaft is even with the vanes resulting in a comparatively smooth structure.

This modified condition is essential, of course, for the surfaces of the feathers could not be contacted closely otherwise. Thus the minute ridges noted at the top of the feather apparently strike glancing blows on the membranous ventral surfaces of the preceding feather much, in fact, after the manner in which cymbals are struck together.

The exact manner in which the bird drums is not readily perceived, in fact it possibly requires much skill and is, no doubt, an accomplishment necessitating precise control.—IRVING L. TOWERS, *Contee Road, Laurel, Md.*

**The Martinique Form of the Ground Dove.**—Probably no more conscientious or painstaking revisionary work has ever been published than Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd's 'Revision of the genus *Chaemepelia*' which appeared in the 'Annals of the Carnegie Museum,' 8, 1913, p. 507-603. This arrangement was adopted practically *in toto* by Ridgway in the seventh part of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' nor has anyone since differed with Todd's conclusions except in very minor details. A few forms have been described based on material collected after Todd's work was published, but this is only to be expected.

This note deals with a slight rearrangement of some of the Antillean races of *Columbigallina passerina*, found necessary through the receipt of fresh material from a critical locality.

When Todd applied Bonaparte's *Chamaepelia trochila*, which was based on Martinique specimens, to the race occurring in Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and the main chain of the Lesser Antilles south to and including St. Lucia, he had but three topotypical birds available, none of them males. Reasoning by analogy from the characters presented by birds from Dominica, the next island north of Martinique, and from St. Lucia the next island south, he concluded that it was safe to apply *trochila* to the "northern form."

When I was on Martinique in 1925 I collected three adult males, three adult females and a juvenal Ground Dove near the village of Sainte Anne in the arid south part of the island. Comparing these birds with a good series from Puerto Rico to Guadeloupe, and from St. Lucia to Grenada, I find that the Martinique birds stand out so distinctly that *trochila* should be restricted to birds from that island. I can see no way in which the Ground Dove population from Puerto Rico to Dominica can be subdivided and would therefore recognize birds from all these islands by the name of *Columbigallina passerina portoricensis* (Lowe), assigning the same characters given by Todd for *trochila* as understood by him.

The Martinique bird is abruptly larger than *portoricensis*; has the rufous area in the wings reduced, the markings on the squamated areas more pronounced; in addition the males are less extensively vinaceous on the wing coverts and the forehead and sides of head are paler vinaceous.

From *C. p. antillarum* the Martinique bird differs in its larger size, more pronounced squamations, darker dorsal surface and slightly greater extent of rufous in the wing; the males lack the lavender-gray wash on the under surface. Specimens from St. Lucia are just about intermediate between those from Martinique and a series of *antillarum*; where to place them is entirely a matter of choice, and I prefer to refer them to *antillarum*.

Since there is practically no difference in size correlated with sex, the following measurements refer to both males and females.

<i>portoricensis</i> ,	41 specimens,	wing	77-82.5 mm.
<i>trochila</i> ,	6	"	" 83-86.5
<i>antillarum</i> ,	35	"	" 77-84 <sup>1</sup>

The three races dealt with will therefore stand as follows:

COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA PORTORICENSIS (Lowe)

*Chamæpelia portoricensis* Lowe, Ibis, 1908, p. 108. (Guanica, Puerto Rico).

Puerto Rico, east and south to Dominica.

COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA TROCHILA (Bonaparte)

*Chamæpelia trochila* Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, 40, 1855, p. 21. (Martinique).

Martinique.

COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA ANTILLARUM (Lowe)

*Chamæpelia antillarum* Lowe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 21, 1908, p. 109. (Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent).

Lesser Antilles from St. Lucia to St. Vincent.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Purple Gallinule on Long Island, N. Y.**—A Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was discovered, by a workman spraying a mosquito ditch, at the Jones Beach State Bird Sanctuary, on June 21, 1934. The bird was captured without great difficulty and readily ate freshly caught prawns. When it was released it fluttered and ran into a clump of bayberries and, when subsequently flushed, climbed and flew into the top of a small maple nearby; it exhibited no awkwardness in clambering about the upper branches. This is, I believe, the third record for Long Island.—WILLIAM VOGT, *Wantagh, N. Y.*

**Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) in Cape May County, New Jersey.**—Mr. Otway H. Brown of Cold Spring, Cape May Co., N. J. tells me that on May 28, 1934, he flushed a Purple Gallinule from the edge of a bog not far from his home. It flew from almost under his feet and the wide spread greenish yellow feet were very conspicuous as well as the blue head and body and the red bill. Mr. Brown is well acquainted with the bird as he was with me when we examined the specimen caught at Anglesea a few years ago.

<sup>1</sup> The largest measurement is that of a bird from St. Lucia; if this measurement is excluded the maximum is 82.5 mm.