

SOME NOTES ON TRINIDAD BIRDS

BY PHILLIPS B. STREET

THE following observations were made during the period from October, 1943, to June, 1944, when the writer had the good fortune to be stationed in Trinidad as supply officer of a blimp squadron. They are presented primarily to record the presence of a few of the rarer species and secondarily with the thought that they might be of some small value to anyone who may in the future undertake the publication of a handbook on the birds of this island so rich in its avifauna. Such a book would be much appreciated by the ornithologist and West Indian traveller, for oft-visited Trinidad is the only island, except for its neighbor, Tobago, not adequately covered by a ready reference guide.

The observations were of necessity very incomplete due to the fact that my primary occupation was in the service of the Navy, and birds could be studied only in off-hours. Transportation, too, was a problem until spring, when the arrival of some jeeps made field trips possible, and the lack of any handy reference guide resulted in several species, particularly among the hummingbirds, going unidentified.

Some of the localities mentioned may be unfamiliar to one who has not visited the island since the advent of the war. Carlsen Field, where I was stationed, is situated on the Southern Main Road about midway between Port of Spain and San Fernando. Fort Read and Waller Field, which comprise the new army installations, are just south of the mountains, near Arima. The Naval Air Station is at Chaguaramas, a few miles north of Port of Spain.

With the exception of frequent walks around the Carlsen Field area, which area was quite thoroughly kept under observation throughout the length of my stay, the observations listed are the result of several field trips taken with Mr. G. D. Smooker—one to the Caroni Swamp and the others in the northern mountains. I did not visit the southern parts of the island nor the islands of Monos and Chacachacare, which islands contain many interesting forms, and trips to these areas would have made possible a more complete list.

Mr. Smooker, a resident of Trinidad for many years and now returned to England, is the co-author with Sir Charles Belcher of a paper, 'Birds of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago,' which was published serially in the 'Ibis' from July, 1934, to July, 1937. I was indeed fortunate in being able to make his acquaintance and learn the more difficult Trinidad birds under his able tutelage.

The scientific names given are, with few exceptions, those of Peters's 'Check List of Birds of the World' and Hellmayr's 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.' Names of the North American migrants are those of the A. O. U. Check-List. The vernacular names used are those given in Hellmayr's work and, for the species not yet completed in that work, those of Belcher and Smooker.

Crypturellus soui andrei (Brabourne and Chubb), ANDRE'S PILEATED TINAMOU.—One heard calling in the valley east of Morne Coco, March 13; four in the same vicinity, April 16; one was heard near St. Joseph at St. Benedict's Monastery, June 4.

Podilymbus podiceps antarcticus (Lesson), PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Five birds of this southern race were seen on May 24 in Caroni Swamp, where it is known to breed.

Pelecanus occidentalis Linnaeus, BROWN PELICAN.—Seen commonly at all times about the coast.

Sula sula sula (Linnaeus), RED-FOOTED BOOBY.—Common along the rocky portions of the coast. It was first noted from a blimp along the east coast near Toco on November 7. Large numbers, together with Brown Boobies, were seen from a blimp on the rocks at the northeast end of Tobago on November 15.

Phalacrocorax olivaceus olivaceus (Humboldt), BRAZILIAN CORMORANT.—Caroni Swamp, five on May 24.

Fregata magnificens rothschildi Mathews, FRIGATE BIRD.—Noted commonly everywhere along the coast at all times.

Ardea cocoi Linnaeus, COCOI HERON.—One seen in a stream at Waller Field on May 30; uncommon.

Butorides striatus striatus (Linnaeus), BLACK-CROWNED HERON.—Carlsen Field, two on March 22. Noted in small numbers every day thereafter that I visited the stream running through the center of the reservation. Caroni Swamp, very common—thirty or more seen on May 24.

Florida caerulea (Linnaeus), LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Common in all swampy areas. Caroni Swamp, four on October 30; four immatures and two adults at Carlsen Field on March 30; seen here often thereafter. Caroni Swamp, 30 on May 24.

Casmerodius albus egretta (Gmelin), AMERICAN EGRET.—San Juan, two on October 30. Occasionally seen in Caroni Swamp during November; none were noted during the winter. Caroni Swamp, 20 on May 24, and 12 on June 4.

Leucophoyx thula thula (Molina), SNOWY EGRET.—Only seen twice, May 24 and June 4, in Caroni Swamp, a single bird each time.

Hydranassa tricolor rufimentum Hellmayr, RED-NECKED HERON.—Caroni Swamp, one on May 23, and four on the following day.

Anas discors Linnaeus, BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Two of our officers brought back one bird shot by them in Caroni Swamp on December 5 and reported the presence of "hundreds." Caroni Swamp, four on May 24.

Cathartes aura ruficollis Spix, RED-NECKED TURKEY VULTURE.—Fairly common, but not in such numbers as the Black Vulture. None of the much rarer orange-headed variety were seen.

Coragyps atratus foetens (Lichtenstein), BLACK VULTURE.—Common, and especially numerous about the dumps on the outskirts of Port of Spain where hundreds gather.

Elanoides forficatus yetapa (Viellot), SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.—One seen near Valencia along the Cuare River, May 24; Blanchisseuse Road near Arima, one on May 28.

Ictinia plumbea (Gmelin), PLUMBEOUS KITE.—One noted along the Piarco-Ft. Read road on May 24. A pair at the same place, May 30.

Buteo albicaudatus colonus, Berlepsch, WHITE-TAILED BUZZARD.—One soaring over the Blue Basin, April 16.

Buteo albonotatus abbreviatus Cabanis, SMALL BLACK BUZZARD.—Scotland Bay, one on May 23.

Asturina nitida nitida (Latham), SHINING BUZZARD-HAWK.—Blue Basin, one on April 16; Carlsen Field, one on May 21; Cuare River, one on May 24.

Buteogallus anthracinus cancrivorus (Clark), BLACK HAWK.—Macqueripe Bay, one, April 9; Blue Basin, two, April 16.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis (Gmelin), OSPREY.—Two birds were seen on October 30 between Port of Spain and the Naval Air Station.

Rallus longirostris longirostris Boddaert, TRINIDAD CLAPPER RAIL.—Caroni Swamp, one, May 24.

Gallinula chloropus galeata (Lichtenstein), BRAZILIAN GALLINULE.—Caroni Swamp, three, May 24 and one, June 4.

Jacana spinosa jacana (Linnaeus), JAÇANA.—I noted 25 or more at Caroni, October 30. A few birds were seen at Carlsen Field in December and often thereafter. I noted two immatures among those seen on April 23. Birds were seen often at Caroni and in the marshy fields near San Juan.

Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus Bonaparte, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—Chaguaramas, four on April 26 and three on May 23.

Charadrius collaris Vieillot, COLLARED PLOVER.—Carlsen Field, a pair on May 24; seen again in the same field on May 28.

Tringa solitaria subsp., SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Mayaro Bay, four on October 25; Carlsen Field, 15 on March 22. Noted commonly until April 23 when 15 were seen; none thereafter.

Actitis macularia (Linnaeus), SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—One at Carlsen Field, April 6.

Totanus melanoleucus (Gmelin), GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—Several were heard flying over Carlsen at night in November, 1943. Carlsen, 20 on March 22, remaining into April in about the same numbers. Carlsen Field, three on April 23. One was seen at Ft. Read on May 24, which seems like a late date for a bird to be remaining so far south.

Totanus flavipes (Gmelin), LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—San Juan, four on October 30; Carlsen Field, two on March 29, three on April 6, two on April 23, and two on May 21, another late date.

Himantopus mexicanus (Müller), BLACK-NECKED STILT.—I saw one bird on the edge of Caroni Swamp, June 4.

Phaetusa simplex simplex (Gmelin), GREAT-BILLED TERN.—Caroni Swamp, seven on May 24, and eight on June 4; Point-a-Piette, two on May 27. Piarco, one on May 28. Caroni Estate, 12 on June 2.

Sterna hirundo hirunda Linnaeus, COMMON TERN.—A flock of twelve noted off Mucarapo, Port of Spain, May 28.

Columba rufina tobagensis Cory, PALE-VENTED RUFIOUS PIGEON.—One noted at Carlsen Field, June 5.

Columbigallina talpacoti rufipennis (Bonaparte), RED-WINGED TALPACOTI DOVE.—Very common in open, scrubby country.

Columbigallina minuta minuta (Linnaeus), PLAIN-BREADED GROUND DOVE.—Very common throughout the island.

Leptotila verreauxi zapluta Peters, VERREAUX'S WHITE-FRONTED DOVE.—MORNE COCO, common. Noted on April 16.

Leptotila rufaxilla hellmayri Chapman, HELLMAYR'S GRAY-FRONTED DOVE.—Observed at Carlsen Field on four occasions: April 1, one; April 19, four; April 29, four; and May 26, two.

Oreopeleia montana (Linnaeus), RUDDY QUAIL DOVE.—MORNE BLEU, one, March 26.

Forpus passerinus viridissimus (Lafresnaye), GREEN PARROLET.—A very common bird in the lower parts of the island. A flock of 12 was first noted in the mangroves along the edge of Caroni Swamp on October 30. A pair was seen at Carlsen on March 30, apparently searching for nesting holes. On April 22 I noted 12 birds and two nests at Carlsen; on April 23, fifteen birds and another nest. The birds appeared to be laying. Five nests in all were discovered, and all were in holes in trees which were either too tall or too rotten to climb.

Pionus menstruus (Linnaeus), BLUE-HEADED PARROT.—Two were noted by Smooker and myself along the Cuare River, May 24.

Amazona amazonica tobagensis Cory, TOBAGO ORANGE-WINGED PARROT.—About 25 noted from a blimp on a trip across the jungle to the east coast and return, November 7. While in a blimp flying through the mountains of the north coast on November 15, we encountered flocks totaling 200 or more parrots, most of which were undoubtedly of this species. Cuare River, four, on May 24.

Piaya cayana insulana Hellmayr, TRINIDAD SQUIRREL CUCKOO.—MORNE COCO ROAD, two, March 13; Carlsen Field, one, May 26; Piarco-Ft. Read Road, one, May 30.

Piaya minuta minuta (Vieillot), LITTLE CUCKOO.—Carlsen Field, one, April 22.

Crotophaga ani Linnaeus, ANI.—A very common species at Carlsen Field and throughout the island.

Tapera naevia naevia (Linnaeus), STRIPED CUCKOO.—The natives call this bird "Wife Sick." At least six were heard calling on May 24, while we were boating through Caroni Swamp.

Glaucidium brasilianum phaloenoides (Daudin), TRINIDAD FERRUGINEOUS PIGMY OWL.—One was heard calling along the Morne Coco Road on March 14; one at Carlsen Field, March 22.

Nyctidromus albicollis albicollis (Gmelin), CUIEJO OR PAURAUQUE.—Two were heard calling their "Who-are-you" at Carlsen on February 12. The birds were frequently heard during the next month. One was heard at the Naval Air Station, April 12.

Chaetura chapmani chapmani Hellmayr, CHAPMAN'S SWIFT.—MORNE BLEU, six, May 28.

Chaetura cinereiventris lawrencei Ridgway, LAWRENCE'S SWIFT.—MORNE BLEU, 20, March 26; numerous at the same place on May 28.

Chaetura spinicauda spinicauda (Temminck), SPINE-TAILED SWIFT.—MORNE BLEU, five, May 28.

Chaetura brachyura brachyura (Jardine), SHORT-TAILED SWIFT.—Not observed until March 15, when a flock of at least 50 was seen in Port of Spain. The species was often noted in April and May in Port of Spain, the mountains, and at Carlsen.

Glaucis hirsuta insularum Hellmayr and Seiletn, TRINIDAD HERMIT.—Carlsen Field, one, April 19; Morne Bleu, two, May 28.

Anthracothonax viridigula (Boddaert), GREEN-THROATED MANGO.—Five on March 26 on Blanchisseuse Road, where they were apparently common in the mountains.

Anthracothorax nigricollis nigricollis (Vieillot), VIOLET-TAILED MANGO.—A female on her nest on May 28 near the Ft. Read entrance to the Blanchisseuse Road was thought by Smooker to be this species. He believes this species to be commoner in the lowlands than the preceding. The females of both are very similar in the field, and many are seen about Carlsen.

Chrysolampis mosquitus (Linnaeus), RUBY AND TOPAZ HUMMINGBIRD.—Blanchisseuse Road, two on March 26.

Chlorostilbon caniveti caribaeus Lawtence, CARIBBEAN EMERALD.—Blue Basin, one, April 16.

Amazilia chionopectus chionopectus (Gould), WHITE-BREADED EMERALD.—Piarco-Ft. Read Road, one, May 24.

Megaceryle alcyon alcyon (Linnaeus), EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.—One was seen near the Naval Air Station, Chaguaramas, on October 22.

Chloroceryle americana croteta Wetmore, GREEN KINGFISHER.—A pair was first seen on March 24 along the little stream running through the center of our base at Carlsen. A single bird was noted at the same spot, April 22.

Chloroceryle aenea aenea (Pallas), LEAST GREEN KINGFISHER.—This tiny bird was seen only once, May 24, diving into a pond along the Piarco-Ft. Read back road.

Galbula ruficauda ruficauda, Cuvier, RUFIOUS-TAILED JACAMAR.—Three were noted at Carlsen Field on April 1 and were seen often in the same spot thereafter. A nest was found near by on May 26 with young calling from inside the bank. Another pair was seen along the Cuare River road on May 24 at their nesting hole.

Ramphastos vitellinus Lichtenstein, SULPHUR-AND-WHITE-BREADED TOUCAN.—One or two were heard calling from the Blanchisseuse Road on March 26. Piarco-Ft. Read Road, one; Cuare River, one, May 24. Blanchisseuse Road, two, May 28. Ft. Read, two; Piarco-Ft. Read Road, one, May 30.

Piculus rubiginosus trinitatis Ridgway, GREEN WOODPECKER.—Las Lomas, one, April 20.

Geophloeus lineatus lineatus (Linnaeus), LINEATED WOODPECKER.—I saw one of these fine birds in the big trees on the Waller Field reservation on May 30.

Veniliornis kirkii kirkii (Malherbe), KIRK'S RED-RUMPED WOODPECKER.—Carlsen Field, one on March 24, and one on April 6. Morne Bleu, four on March 26.

Xiphorhynchus susurrans susurrans (Jardine), COCOA WOOD-HEWER.—Carlsen Field, one, November 20; Morne Coco Road, two, March 13; Blanchisseuse Road, two or more calling, March 26; Blue Basin, one, April 16.

Dendrocicla meruloides meruloides (Lafresnaye), OCHREOUS-BELLIED DENDROCICLA.—Carlsen Field, one on March 24, and two on May 21; Blanchisseuse Road, one, March 26; Morne Bleu, one, April 28.

Synallaxis albescens nesiotis Clark, CLARK'S WHITE-THROATED SPINE-TAIL.—A pair of these elusive birds showed themselves long enough to be identified in the underbrush along the border of the Carlsen reservation, May 26.

Certhiaxis cinnamomea cinnamomea (Gmelin), YELLOW-THROATED SPINE-TAIL.—Very common in Caroni Swamp, where 25 or more were seen on May 24. One was nest-building.

Sakesphorus canadensis trinitatis (Ridgway), TRINIDAD BLACK-CRESTED ANT SHRIKE.—Carlsen Field, one on April 23; Caroni Swamp, four on May 24.

Thamnophilus doliatus fraterculus Berlepsch and Hartert, VENEZUELAN WHITE-BARRED ANT SHRIKE.—A common species throughout the island at all times; more often heard than seen.

Formicarius analis saturatus Ridgway, RUFUS-NECKED ANTHRUSH.—The Cock-of-the-Woods is common in the forest country where, as in the previous species, it is seldom seen but often heard. Blanchisseuse Road, two, March 26, and four on May 28; Morne Coco Road, three, April 16; Cuare River, two, May 24; St. Benedict's Monastery, two, June 4.

Procnias averano carnobarba (Cuvier), BLACK-WINGED BELL-BIRD.—I heard five calling, May 28, and had an excellent view of one male calling from a dead branch of a forest tree below us on Morne Bleu. Maracas Bay Road, two, June 2; St. Benedict's Monastery, one, June 4.

Pipra erythrocephala erythrocephala (Linnaeus), GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN.—Morne Bleu, two, March 26; Cuare River, one, May 24.

Manacus manacus trinitatis (Hartert), TRINIDAD MANAKIN.—Cuare River, one, May 24; eight or more May 28, along the southern part of the Arima to Blanchisseuse Road, where I heard the peculiar clicking sound of the wings during courtship.

Fluvicola pica pica (Boddaert), WHITE-SHOULDERED WATER-TYRANT.—Often noted from the road which borders the Caroni Swamp, and twenty were observed on May 24 on a boat trip through the swamp.

Arundicola leucocephala (Linnaeus), WHITE-HEADED MARSH-TYRANT.—This common species was seen frequently wherever swampy land provided the proper habitat. It was first noted October 22 in rice fields south of San Juan. Common along the Caroni Swamp road.

Muscivora tyrannus (Linnaeus), SWALLOW-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—First noted October 22 near Caroni and seen commonly around the swamp until November, when the southern migration commences. Noted next on May 21, upon my return from a two-weeks leave in the United States. From that date until my departure it was the commonest bird to be seen from the roads from Carlsen to Port of Spain with seldom less than a hundred being noted each trip.

Tyrannus melancholicus despotes (Lichtenstein), LICHTENSTEIN'S KINGBIRD.—Seen upon my arrival and extremely common throughout the island at all times.

Tyrannus dominicensis vorax, Vieillot, LARGE-BILLED KINGBIRD.—Two were observed at Carlsen Field on March 19.

Legatus leucophaius leucophaius (Vieillot), STRIPED FLYCATCHER.—Carlsen Field, two on May 25; noted often thereafter. Blanchisseuse Road, one, and Arima, one, May 28.

Myiodynastes maculatus maculatus (Müller), STREAKED FLYCATCHER.—Blanchisseuse Road, two, May 28.

Megarynchus pitangua pitangua (Linnaeus), BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER.—Morne Coco Road, two, March 13; Blanchisseuse Road, a pair and a nest in an immortelle tree, incubating, May 28.

Pitangus sulphuratus trinitatis Hellmayr, TRINIDAD KISKADEE FLYCATCHER.—The Kiskadee seems to be the best known bird in Trinidad. It was noted commonly on the base at arrival and was seen or heard perhaps every day thereafter. A nest with an incubating bird was found on May 22. Another nest contained young on May 30.

Myiarchus tyrannulus tyrannulus (Müller), GUIANAN CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Smooker and I noted a pair above Arima on the Blanchisseuse Road on May 28. They are considered rare.

Myiochanes cinereus bogotensis (Bonaparte), CARIBBEAN PEWEE.—Blanchisseuse Road, one on March 26, and five on May 28; one nest with bird incubating on the latter date. Cuare River, one, May 24.

Myiophobus fasciatus fasciatus (Müller), BANDED FLYCATCHER.—Carlsen Field, one, March 24; two, May 26; Morne Bleu, one, May 28.

Elaenia flavogaster flavogaster (Thunberg), YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA.—A pair was seen regularly at Carlsen. One bird was observed at Caroni on May 24. A nest and incubating bird were found near Arima on May 28.

Progne chalybea chalybea (Gmelin), WHITE-BELLIED MARTIN.—Reportedly quite common, but only observed once by me, in the valley below Blue Basin, on April 16, when eight were noted.

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis aequalis Bangs, CARIBBEAN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—The commonest swallow about the base at all times. It was seen both here and at Caroni in large numbers on many occasions.

Pygochelidon cyanoleuca cyanoleuca (Vieillot), BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW.—Seen commonly at times. About 100 birds were on the telephone wires at the Caroni Estate at times in October. On May 24, over 300 were noted at Caroni and along the Caroni-Ft. Read Road. Only seen once at Carlsen, on May 26, when I counted 15.

Hirundo rustica erythrogaster Boddaert, BARN SWALLOW.—Caroni Swamp, three on April 19 and a flock of fifteen on April 26. This seems like a late date for this early migrant to be so far south. None were noted during the winter. Waller Field, one, April 20.

Thryothorus rutilus rutilus (Vieillot), RUFIOUS-BREADED WREN.—Morne Bleu, one singing on May 28.

Troglodytes musculus clarus Berlepsch and Hartert, PALE-BELLIED HOUSE WREN.—First noted at Carlsen on October 15, singing, and seen and heard commonly throughout the more inhabited parts of Trinidad. It was not a noticeable bird during the winter months but commenced singing again in late March and early April.

Mimus gilvus tobagensis Dalmas, TOBAGO MOCKINGBIRD.—Formerly rare, this Mockingbird is now well established around Port of Spain, where I saw them often. Also noted at Arima on March 26, at Carlsen April 15, and St. Joseph, June 4.

Turdus albicollis phaeopygoides Seebohm, TOBAGO GRAY-RUMPED THRUSH.—One seen above Arima on the Blanchisseuse Road on March 26.

Turdus nudigenis nudigenis Lafresnaye, BARE-EYED THRUSH.—Common and widely distributed. On May 21 I noted nineteen at Carlsen. On May 26 a nest with young was found.

Turdus fumigatus aquilonalis (Cherrie), TRINIDAD THRUSH.—This Cocoa Thrush is abundant in the cocoa groves. Three nests were discovered along the Blanchisseuse Road on March 26 in banks alongside the road, one containing three eggs and the others being built.

Vireo virescens vividior Hellmayr and Seilern, CARIBBEAN VIREO.—Carlsen Field, one, May 22; Blanchisseuse Road, six, singing, on May 28.

Hylophilus aurantiifrons saturatus (Hellmayr), EASTERN OCHER-FRONTED HYLOPHILUS.—Morne Bleu, four, May 28.

Cyclarhis gujanensis flavipectus Sclater, YELLOW-BREADED PEPPER-SHRIKE.—Common. Heard or seen on every field trip. Perhaps the most thoroughly distributed bird in Trinidad, being found wherever there are trees.

Chlorophanes spiza spiza (Linnaeus), GREEN HONEY CREEPER.—Two males and a female of this lovely species seen along the Blanchisseuse Road, May 28.

Cyanerpes caeruleus longirostris (Cabanis), TRINIDAD HONEY CREEPER.—Cuare River, six, May 24.

Dacnis cayana cayana (Linnaeus), CAYENNE DACNIS.—A male and two females above Arima on the Blanchisseuse Road, May 28.

Coereba flaveola luteola (Cabanis), CARIBBEAN BANANAQUIT.—Noted commonly throughout the island. A pair was found nest building at Carlsen on April 23.

Ateleodacnis bicolor bicolor (Vieillot), BICOLORED ATELEODACNIS.—Six seen in Caroni Swamp, May 24, where it is apparently quite common.

Compsothlypis pitiayumi elegans Todd, ELEGANT OLIVE-BACKED WARBLER.—Blanchisseuse Road, two on March 26. Carlsen Field, one, singing, May 21. Piarco-Ft. Read Road, one, singing, May 24.

Dendroica petechia aestiva (Gmelin), EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER.—Port of Spain, one on December 21. Seen occasionally all winter, Port of Spain and Carlsen.

Seiurus motacilla (Vieillot), LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.—This species was first observed at Carlsen Field on March 22. It has not been recorded from Trinidad before although it has been found in Colombia at about the same latitude. Another individual was observed at the same location on April 22 from a distance of only six feet. Four were seen the following day.

Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis (Gmelin), NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH.—Carlsen Field, one on April 6.

Geothlypis aequinoctialis aequinoctialis (Gmelin), EQUINOCTIAL MASKED YELLOW-THROAT.—A male seen at Carlsen Field April 19 and a female on April 23. One male noted in Caroni Swamp May 24.

Setophaga ruticilla (Linnaeus), AMERICAN REDSTART.—Carlsen Field, two, March 24.

Xanthornus decumanus insularis (Dalmas), CARIBBEAN CRESTED OROPENDOLA.—Widely distributed and especially common in the hilly forested country. The "Yellow-tail" was often observed from blimps as we flew over the forests.

Cacicus cela cela (Linnaeus), YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE.—Fifty birds and nests at Mayaro, October 25. Common throughout the island but more locally than the former species.

Psomocolax oryzivorus oryzivorus (Gmelin), RICE GRACKLE.—Arima, ten, March 26, Diego Martin Road, 15 on April 16. Cuare River, five on May 34. Blanchisseuse Road, common, May 28.

Molothrus bonariensis minimus Dalmas, LESSER SHINY COWBIRD.—Noted often in small numbers on the road from Carlsen Field to Port of Spain. Seen also at Carlsen, Caroni, and on the Diego Martin Road.

Holoquiscalus lugubris lugubris (Swainson), SWAINSON'S GRACKLE.—A common species along the roads and throughout the lowlands. About 100 could usually be seen on the drive into Port of Spain.

Icterus nigrogularis trinitatis Hartert, TRINIDAD ORIOLE.—Widely distributed. Seen December 21 in Port of Spain and often in the spring at Carlsen, Blue Basin, Ft. Read, Point-a-Pierre, and Macqueripe Bay.

Agelaius icterocephalus icterocephalus (Linnaeus), YELLOW-HEADED MARSH-BIRD.—Common in Caroni Swamp where 35 were seen May 24. Noted in smaller numbers at Carlsen and San Juan on many occasions.

Leistes militaris militaris (Linnaeus), CAYENNE RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD.—First noted November 14 at Carlsen. Often seen here and in other wet country throughout the island, never in large numbers.

Tanagra violacea violacea (Linnaeus), VIOLACEOUS EUPHONIA.—Morne Coco Road, six on March 13. Blanchisseuse Road, five, May 28.

Tanagra desmaresti (Vieillot), YELLOW-BREASTED TANAGER.—The natives call this little red-headed species the "Worthless." Blanchisseuse Road, six on March 26; fifteen on May 28. St. Benedict's Monastery, one, June 4.

Tangara mexicana vieilloti (Sclater), VIEILLOT'S TURQUOISE TANAGER.—Blanchisseuse Road, ten on May 28. Carlsen Field, one, June 5.

Thraupis episcopus nesophilus Riley, TRINIDAD TANAGER.—A very common species everywhere. I found a nest with young at Carlsen Field on April 23.

Thraupis palmarum melanoptera (Sclater), AMAZONIAN PALM TANAGER.—Common and widely distributed. Seen in the greatest numbers at Tucker Valley, where groups of 25 or so could always be seen about the Naval Hospital grounds. Some are quite tame, and I have seen them on the dinner tables on the porch of the Queen's Park Hotel.

Ramphocelus carbo magnirostris Lafresnaye, TRINIDAD SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER.—First noted at Carlsen November 18 in the scrubby second growth. Noted often here and throughout the island. A group of 15 seen near Freeport in a bamboo thicket was the greatest number observed in one gathering.

Habia rubica rubra (Vieillot), TRINIDAD RED ANT TANAGER.—Two noted in the forest trees near the top of the Morne Bleu Road, March 26.

Tachyphonus rufus (Boddaert), GREATER WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER.—Known locally as the "Parson," and quite common in scrubby country. Usually seen in pairs. Seen often at Carlsen and on the Blanchisseuse and Cuare River roads.

Tachyphonus luctuosus luctuosus Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny, LESSER WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER.—One pair, seen along the southern slope of the Blanchisseuse Road on March 26, were the only birds observed of this rather rare species.

Saltator coerulescens brewsteri Bangs and Penard, BREWSTER'S SALTATOR.—Seen at Carlsen Field on three occasions, April 19 and 23, and June 5.

Paroaria gularis nigro-genis (Lafresnaye), BLACK-EARED CARDINAL.—G. D. Smooker and I found a pair nesting in a mangrove tree deep in Caroni Swamp on May 24. The nest contained two eggs well along in incubation. This is the second Trinidad nesting record; the previous nest was found by Smooker also in the swamp on September 21, 1931. Smooker considers the bird "very rare and very local." Hellmayr does not report the occurrence of this species in Trinidad and remarks that "trade skins are sometimes labeled 'Trinidad', no doubt erroneously." Two nesting records do seem to indicate, however, that this cardinal is established as a resident, and it is quite possible that the skins labeled "Trinidad" were actually taken there.

Sporophila intermedia Cabanis, GRAY SEED-EATER.—Seen often throughout the low, scrubby growth country but never in large groups.

Sporophila nigricollis nigricollis (Vieillot), YELLOW-BELLIED SEED-EATER.—Uncommon. Seen on Blanchisseuse Road on March 26 and May 28, and at Carlsen Field on May 21 and 26, and June 5. Four individuals on May 28 were the most seen on any one day.

Sporophila bouvronoides (Lesson), LESSON'S SEED-EATER.—This species is apparently subject to a local migration as it was not seen until May 21, at which time it was found in large numbers, singing. The places where it was observed at this time had been regularly visited before, and no birds in any numbers could have gone unnoticed. Smooker has found the nest in Trinidad, so the species is a resident. Observations were: Carlsen, 25 on May 21; Carlsen, May 22, "common"; Scotland Bay, five on May 23; Piarco-Ft. Read Road, two on May 24; Carlsen, two on May 26; Morne Bleu, four on May 28; and Carlsen, six on June 5.

Sporophila minuta minuta (Linnaeus), Minute Seed-eater.—A very common species. A flock of 50 or more was seen at Carlsen on March 22, and groups of 50 to 100 were often encountered thereafter about the island in open and scrubby country.

Oryzoborus crassirostris crassirostris (Gmelin), LARGE-BILLED RICE GROSBEEK.—Uncommon. Seen on three occasions: May 21 at Carlsen; May 24 at Cuare River Road, three; and May 28, Blanchisseuse Road, one.

Oryzoborus angolensis torridus (Scopoli), LESSER CHESTNUT-BACKED RICE GROSBEEK.—Another uncommon finch, noted at Carlsen on April 1 and May 22, one individual; four on May 26 and three on June 5; four on Cuare River Road, May 24; one near Ft. Read May 30.

Volatinia jacarina splendens (Vieillot), NORTHERN BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT.—Very common in the open country at Carlsen. A widely distributed species seen in large numbers throughout the island.

Philadelphia

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BIRD NOTES FROM EL BAHIRA, TUNIS

BY F. H. BEZDEK

WHILE awaiting discharge of our cargo at the French colonial port of Tunis in the summer of 1944, I had a splendid opportunity to observe some of the bird life of an adjacent salt-water lagoon. At this season the area teemed with shore birds. With only an occasional saltbush patch along its flat, sandy shores, conditions were ideal for observations. This area circumscribes the bird notes recorded below.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Dr. J. P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History, during the preparation of this report.

In the late afternoon of August 13, 1944, our cargo steamer arrived at La Goulette, near the entrance of the canal leading to the harbor of Tunis. Damages resulting from the war made the canal impassible to larger ships, and we were forced to stop here. During the many trolley rides along the canal between the two cities I shall not forget El Bahira both for the abundance of shore birds and its stifling odor. Most striking was the conspicuous absence of bird life at this season on the Lac de Tunis side of the canal. A quick glance at the waters of El Bahira revealed why the avian hosts preferred this feeding ground.

El Bahira is a shallow man-made lagoon bordering the bay and city of Tunis. It is roughly kidney-shaped and approximately five by four miles. Construction of the canal and adjoining dikes created this small artificial 'lake' and cut it off from the Lac de Tunis except for a narrow channel at each end of the canal; in fact, these channels were so narrow in proportion to the overall volume of El Bahira that daily tides did not noticeably affect its depth. Fre-