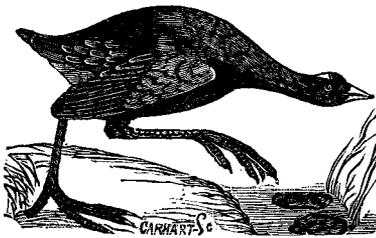


NESTING OF THE PURPLE GALLINULE.

Ionornis Martinica.

BY JAS. H. RACHEORD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

The Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) is an inhabitant of the low sea marshes and also of the low fresh water marshes along the Gulf Shores of the southern states, especially of Louisiana and



PURPLE GALLINULE.

Texas. These marshes extend for miles and are covered with a luxuriant growth of rank grass and with "marsh cane" fully ten feet high. In such places entirely removed from the habitation of man, this bird builds its nest and rears its young.

It selects some stream of water and in a bunch of "cut grass" growing in this stream, it builds or rather weaves its nest. This "cut grass" grows about four or five feet tall, has sharp, knife-like edges and is very strong and stiff.

This bird will select a thick bunch of grass and will bend the tops down and weave them into a basket shaped nest, which is usually about three feet above the water; and here it deposits its eggs, from 9 to 13 in number.

Around its true nest it will build from three to seven and eight sham nests which will invariably cause inexperienced hunters to pass on by, as they look like nests just begun but not finished, and are always some ten or fifteen feet away from the true nest and always where they can be readily seen, while the real nest is usually as well concealed as possible.

Here in these wild and secluded places the Purple Gallinule rears its young, which when they are first hatched resemble very much young chickens, and are of a dull bluish-brown color.