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## 18. FELIS MEGALOTIS, Temminck.

*Hab.* Timor (non vidimus).

## 19. FELIS CHAUS, Gldenstdt.

*F. catolynx*, Pallas.

*F. affinis*, Gray.

*F. dongolensis*, Hemprich & Ehrenberg.

*F. caligata* (?), Bruce.

*F. lybica*, Olivier.

*F. kutas*, Pearson.

*F. rppellii*, Brandt.

*Lynchus erythrotis*, Hodgson.

*Hab.* India; North Burma (Arakan); South-west Asia; North-east Africa. South Africa, apud Layard (who gives Kuruman as one locality), in addition to *F. cafra*.

N.B. The Egyptian specimen now living in the Society's Gardens is absolutely similar to the common animal of Bengal.

## 20. FELIS CARACAL, Schreber.

*Hab.* South Asia and Africa; Central India.

## 21. FELIS ISABELLINA, Blyth.

The Lynx of Tibet.

Has the naked pads of the soles of the feet much more developed than in *F. lynx* of Europe.

2. DESCRIPTIONS OF THIRTEEN NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS DISCOVERED IN CENTRAL AMERICA BY FREDERICK GODMAN AND OSBERT SALVIN. BY OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.Z.S.

(Plates XXIII., XXIV.)

A partial investigation of the collections made by myself and Mr. F. Godman in Guatemala and the adjacent republics during the latter part of 1861, 1862, and the early part of the present year (1863) has led to the separation of the present thirteen species, which I now propose to describe as new. There are no marked forms amongst them, the greater part being Central American representatives of North or South American species, the only truly South Mexican and Central American genus being that of *Cardellina*, of which I now describe a third species. The specimens were collected at various points, the district of Peten producing the most novelties; no less than four out of the whole number were obtained in that part. Our collection from there was small, and I think that more remains to be discovered in that remote region than in any other part of Guatemala. The alternations of savannas and forest offer scope for variety not to be met with elsewhere. Where such

a bird as *Meleagris ocellata* exclusively exists, more may naturally be looked for; and I much regret my stay there was so limited. A remarkably pleasant cruise down the west coast of Central America in the 'Guatemala' also bore fruits, as Capt. Dow and I took every opportunity to go ashore with our guns; and Realejo and Punta Arenas have added two species to our present list. The rest are from the high lands, districts I had left unexplored in my previous journeys. I must thank Dr. Sclater for his kind assistance in determining the species.

1. *THRYOTHORUS PETENICUS*, sp. n.

*Subtus brunneus, uropygio rubidiore; superciliis et loris albis, regione postoculari brunnea; lateribus capitis et colli albis nigro minute striatis; alis fusco-brunneis vix nigro transvittatis; cauda nigra, duabus externis rectricibus albo irregulariter punctatis, duabus mediis fusco-brunneis, his cum rectricibus reliquis nigro fasciatis; gula, pectore et ventre medio albis, lateribus corporis brunneis; crisso albo fasciis nigris transvittato. Rostro superiore corneo, inferiore albidiore; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 5.1, alæ 2.3, caudæ 2; rost. a rictu 0.9 poll. Angl.

*Hab.* Peten.

Similis *T. modesto* ex Guatemala et Costa Rica, sed rostro longiore fasciisque caudæ et crissi differt.

This species, though like, is apparently quite distinct from *T. modestus*, its nearest ally, the more strongly impressed markings of the ear-coverts, the less rufous colour of the under parts, and the well-defined bars of the crissum pointing to its distinction. I am well aware that this latter feature would not alone justify specific separation, some species of the genus *Troglodytes* presenting great variety in this respect; but considered in conjunction with other characters, it must not be altogether rejected.

2. *DENDRÆCA NIVEIVENTRIS*, sp. n. (Pl. XXIV. fig. 2.)

*D. chrysoparia*, Scl. P. Z. S. 1862, p. 19, & Cat. p. 354.

♂. *Fronte, regione oculari et capitis lateribus flavis; pileo nigro vittato; nucha pure nigra; dorso nigro griseo mixto, uropygio fere omnino griseo; primariis et secundariis obscure fuscis, in pogonio externo griseo marginatis; tectricibus alarum minoribus nigris, mediis albo terminatis, majoribus nigris, in pogonio externo griseis, macula alba terminatis; rectricibus nigris, tribus utrinque lateralibus macula longa in pogonio interno alba; duabus externis in pogonio externo albis, deinde nigris usque ad terminum, rectricibus interioribus griseo marginatis; subtus gula et pectore superiore pure nigris, deinde omnino albis, lateribus vix nigro striatis; tectricibus subalaribus albis; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis.*

♀ *similis mari, gula nigra absente.*

Long. tot. 4.85, alæ 2.7, caudæ 2.25.

A speciebus similibus *D. townsendi*, *D. virente* et *D. chrysoparia* corpore inferiore immaculato facile dignoscenda.

We obtained at different times three specimens of this species, the first from the upper parts of the Volcan de Fuego, the second from a pine-forest near S. Gerónimo, and the third near the silver-mines of Alotepeque on the Honduras frontier. The species also ranges into Mexico, it being this bird, not the true *D. chrysoparia*, which Dr. Sclater obtained from M. Boucard's collection.

3. *CARDELLINA VERSICOLOR*, sp. n. (Pl. XXIV. fig. 1.)

*Rubra, dorso obscuriore, abdomine et uropygio clariore; capite toto cum collo et pectore argentescenti-rubris; alis et cauda fusco-nigris, illarum secundariis internis et tectricibus majoribus in pogonio externo rubro marginatis; tectricibus minoribus macula rubra terminatis; tectricibus subalaribus et margine interno primariorum albis; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 4.5, alæ 2.5, caudæ 2.25.

*Hab.* Guatemala, in regione alta (8000 ped.).

Found frequenting the edges of the forest, at an elevation of 8000 ft. and upwards; Volcan de Fuego, amongst alders; Totonicapam, Chilasco.

4. *VIREO PALLENS*, sp. n.

*Supra obscure olivaceus, capitis lateribus concoloribus, regione præoculari pallide flava; subtus albus vix flavo tinctus; alis caudaque fuscis externe olivaceo marginatis, secundariis internis in margine albidioribus; tectricibus alarum macula albida terminatis; rostro superiore brunneo, inferiore albido; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 4.6, alæ 2.3, caudæ 2, remigis spurii .93.

*Hab.* Realejo in Nicaragua et Punta Arenas in Costa Rica.

Shot by Capt. J. M. Dow and myself amongst the mangrove-bushes at the back of the above towns.

5. *VIREO OCHRACEUS*, sp. n.

*Similis præcedenti, sed colore flavo-ochraceo, non albo, vix flavo subtus lavato distinguendus; supra etiam clarius olivaceus.*

Long. tot. 4.5, alæ 2.2, caudæ 1.9, remigis spurii .85.

*Hab.* San José de Guatemala.

6. *VIREO SEMIFLAVUS*, sp. n.

*Similis præcedentibus, sed flavo corporis inferioris differt; remige etiam spurio brevior.*

Long. tot. 4.35, alæ 2.1, caudæ 1.9, remigis spurii .65.

*Hab.* Peten, in regione campestri.

Hi Vireones *Vireoni noveboracensi* similes sunt, sed corporibus inferioribus concoloribus facile dignoscendi.

There certainly appear to be three distinct species of *Vireo* here. Their differences may be thus shortly compared:—

<i>V. pallens.</i>	<i>V. ochraceus.</i>	<i>V. semiflavus.</i>	<i>V. noveboracensis.</i>
Longest spurious primary, pale under surface.	Moderate spurious primary, rounded; yellow-ochre colouring below; smaller than <i>V. pallens.</i>	Shortest spurious primary, yellow beneath; smaller than either <i>V. pallens</i> or <i>V. ochraceus.</i>	Short spurious primary; white throat and abdomen; yellow flanks.

### 7. PETROCHELIDON LITTOREA, sp. n.

*Supra æneo-viridis; subtus gula alba, corpore toto cum crisso et uropygio albis, lineis angustis nigris striatis; macula alba supra regionem præocularem; remigibus et rectricibus viridescenti-nigris, interne fuscis; secundariis in pogonio externo albo anguste marginatis; rostro et pedibus nigerrimis.*

Long. tot. 4.5, alæ 3.75, caudæ 1.8.

Similis *P. albiventri* ex America meridionali, sed colore æneo-viridi non cæruleo facile dignoscenda.

*Hab.* Amer. cent., regione littorali.

This Swallow frequents all the low rivers and sea-coasts of both oceans, from Belize to Colon on the Atlantic, and from Soconusco to Panamá on the Pacific; and it seems strange that it has hitherto escaped observation, so common is it everywhere on the coast. It breeds in old Woodpeckers' holes in the snags in the rivers.

### 8. SPIZELLA PINETORUM, sp. n.

*Similis S. pusillæ ex Amer. sept. et Mexico, sed coloribus clarioribus et rostro robustiore differt.*

Inhabits the pine-ridges and savannas of Peten, living amongst the taller patches of grass.

### 9. AMMODROMUS PETENICUS, sp. n.

*Supra niger fusco-brunneo mixtus; alis caudaque brunneis, loris griseo-albidis, stria postoculari brunnea; gula et abdomine albidis, illa stria utrinque laterali nigra, pectore et lateribus cum crisso pallide brunneis, campterio pallide flavo; rostro corneo, mandibula inferiore albidiore; pedibus pallide flavis.*

Long. tot. 5, alæ 2.25, caudæ 3.15.

*Hab.* Peten, in regione campestri.

Similis *A. manimbæ* ex Brasilia, sed loris albidis et gulæ striis dignoscendus.

### 10. JUNCO ALTICOLA, sp. n.

*Cinereus, regione oculari, pileo et nucha obscurioribus; ventre medio fere albo; lateribus, crisso et uropygio brunnescentioribus; primariis fusco-nigris, pogonio externo medialiter cinereo marginato; secundariis internis fusco-nigris, pogonio externo et regione interscapulari brunneis, hac paulo obscuriore; rectricibus fusco-nigris, duabus externis macula alba interne terminatis; rostro nigro, mandibula inferiore albido terminata; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 6.25, alæ 3.1, caudæ .3.

*Hab.* Guatemala, in regione alta (8000 ped.).

Similis *J. cinereo* ex Mexico, sed coloribus obscurioribus rostroque robustiore facile dignoscendus.

Evidently the Guatemalan representative of the Mexican *J. cinereus*.

11. *CHRYSOMITRIS ATRICEPS*, sp. n.

*Olivacea ; capitis lateribus griseis ; abdomine medialiter cinereo ; dorso postico et uropygio viridescenti-flavis ; pileo toto et gula nigris, hac obscuriore ; remige externo omnino nigro, secundi et tertii pogoniis externis medialiter flavo marginatis, quarti et reliquorum pogoniis externis in parte basali flavis, in parte terminali nigris flavo marginatis, pogoniis internis omnium flavo marginatis ; secundariorum parte basali flava, parte terminali nigra, macula olivacea externe terminata ; duabus rectricibus internis nigro-fuscis, reliquis flavis nigro terminatis ; rostro superiore fusco, inferiore pallidiore ; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 4·85, alæ 2·9, caudæ 2.

*Hab.* Quezaltenango, alt. 8000 ft.

The two specimens from which the above description is taken differ considerably in coloration from one another, one being in old and somewhat worn plumage, the other more freshly moulted and brighter olivaceous. They are both males ; and the former, from the greater amount of yellow in the spots on the wings, I consider as the older bird. This variation in the extent of yellow on the wings and tail is seen in the allied species *C. notata*, the female having less than the male. At first sight the present species might be taken for the young of *C. notata* (in which the sexes are almost alike) ; but the longer wings and more deeply forked tail point to its distinctness.

The two specimens were shot by Mr. R. Owen and myself amongst a patch of thistles near Quezaltenango, in August last (1862).

12. *ELAÏNEA ARENARUM*, sp. n.

*Fusco-olivacea ; pileo, alis caudaque obscurioribus ; gula et pectore griseis, illa paulo dilutiore ; abdomine toto, crisso et tectricibus subalaribus flavis ; secundariis internis fusco-albo externe marginatis ; tectricibus alarum macula fusco-alba terminatis ; rostro et pedibus nigerrimis.*

Long. tota 5·6, alæ 2·8, caudæ 2·7.

*Hab.* Costa Rica.

Shot by Capt. J. M. Dow and myself near Punta Arenas.

13. *PANYPTILA SANCTI-HIERONYMI*, sp. n. (Pl. XXIII.)

*Purpureo-nigra ; gula, pectore et torque postico pure albis, macula alba utrinque uropygii et frontis lateralibus ; primariis tribus externis omnino nigris, reliquis in pogonio interno albo marginatis, secundariis albo terminatis, deinde fusco subterminatis ; rostro nigro ; pedibus vestitis.*

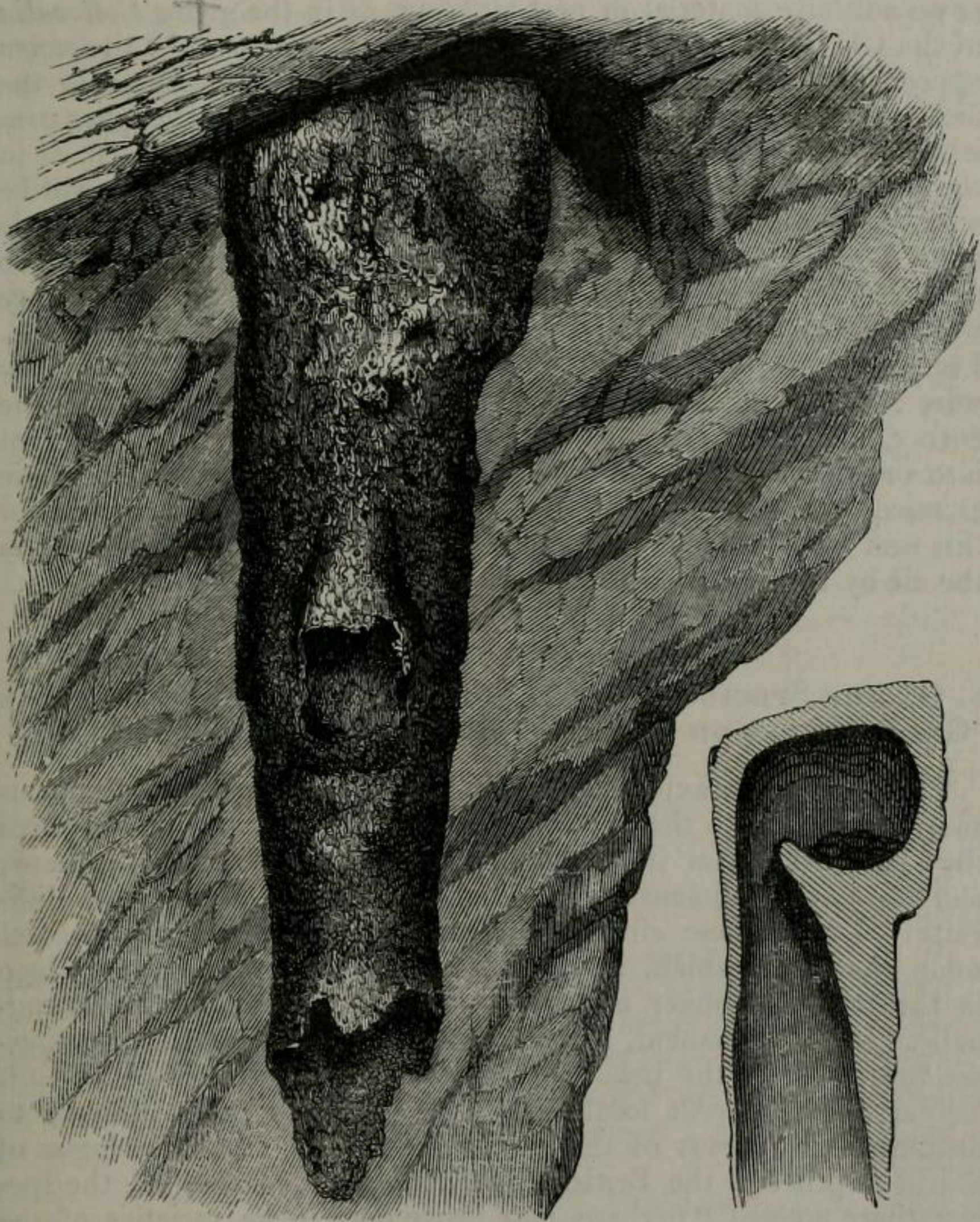
Long. tot. 7·5, alæ 7·5, caudæ 3·6.

Similis *P. cayennensi*, sed major.

*Hab.* San Geronimo in reipub. Guatemalæ.

*Nest.*—The nest of this species is composed entirely of the seeds of a plant, secured together and hung from the under surface of an overhanging rock by the saliva of the bird. The whole structure measures 2 feet 2 inches in length, and is about 6 inches in diameter. The entrance is at the end, and the hollow for the eggs at the top.

The first time we met with this beautiful Swift was near San Gerónimo in Vera Paz, soon after our arrival in Guatemala in 1861. I then recognized it as distinct from *P. melanoleuca*, but afterwards, not having secured specimens, imagined we must have mistaken it for that bird. In July of last year (1862) I had the satisfaction of



having brought to me alive, by Mr. Carter of San Gerónimo, two birds which clearly showed that our first impression was correct.

They had been caught by an Indian under a rock near the village



of Matanzas, in the mountains. The birds, though apparently uninjured, were quite sleepy, not attempting to fly; the only energy they exhibited was by making their powerful claws meet in my fingers when I endeavoured to secure them. I afterwards, on several occasions, observed them flying over the plain with amazing swiftness during dull rainy evenings of July. Later on in the autumn Mr. Hague, of San Gerónimo, secured for me the nest which I now exhibit. He found it, during a visit to some Indian ruins in the neighbourhood, sticking to the under surface of an overhanging rock.

The bird was distinctly seen to enter several times; but Mr. Hague was unable to shoot it, owing to its rapid flight. There were no eggs in the nest. In this nest we see the saliva of the bird used as an adhesive material in nest-building, as in the genus *Collocalia* of the Old World, but differently applied. At first sight the saliva appears to have been used merely to secure the foundation of the nest (if the term may be applied inversely) to the overhanging projection of rock upon which the rest of the structure is woven, as in the nests of the Icteridæ; but upon closer examination it will be seen that the saliva has been applied to secure every one of the seeds used in the construction of the nest, and in no other way could so firm and durable a structure be attained. Another curious feature will be noticed in this nest,—which is, the false entrance at the side. I remember to have seen a similar thing in other nests; I think they were Australian. They appear to be placed there to deceive some enemy, such as a snake or lizard, to the attacks of which the parent bird or its offspring would, during the time of incubation, be more exposed. It would be interesting to know how the materials for this nest were gathered, whether from the plant itself, or caught in the air by the bird as the seeds were carried by the wind. <

### 3. ON THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS STERNOTHERUS, WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS ON KINIXYS. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

The shell or thorax of the *Sternotheri* offer such different appearances, according to the age or other special conditions under which they have lived, that it is almost impossible to distinguish them; and the more specimens are received, the greater becomes the difficulty. Under these circumstances, as the heads seem to present some characters which, as far as I have been able to observe them in the limited number of specimens which come under my examination, seem permanent, I have attempted to define the peculiarities presented by the heads of the specimens in the Museum Collection from different localities. The species were so difficult to distinguish by means of the shell only, that, in my 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles in the British Museum,' I stated that all the species there noticed "perhaps may prove only to be varieties of the same species, or dependent on age" (p. 52).

A larger series of specimens from the same locality has shown that such characters as the shape and thickness of the shields, and