

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS OF
THE FAMILY COLUMBIDÆ.

BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

1. *Zenaida rubripes*.

Female. The front is of a light brown tinged with vinaceous; the upper plumage is olivaceous-brown, with a dull reddish tinge, which is most observable on the back; the hind part and sides of the neck are grayish, the latter glossed with golden changing to light violet; the two central tail-feathers are olive brown; the outer web of the first lateral feather is pale rufous; the bases of the four outer ones are brownish-cinereous, with their ends largely pale rufous, the two colors separated by a black bar; the other tail-feathers are dark cinereous with a subterminal black bar, on the under side the color of the basal portion of the tail feathers is blackish cinereous; the primaries are dark umber-brown, the secondaries brownish-black, both narrowly edged with white; the tertials are the color of the back, and are marked with four conspicuous oval spots of black; the under wing-coverts are light bluish-ash, the flanks dark ashy-blue; behind the eye is a small spot of black, and another below the ears, sides of the head and the chin pale vinaceous, the latter lighter in color; the under plumage is of a reddish cinnamon color, rather dull on the throat and breast, but somewhat brighter on the abdomen and under tail-coverts; bill black; tarsi and toes carmine red.

The color of the feet in the dried specimen is quite bright; in the living bird it is doubtless much more so. The tail has fourteen rectrices.

Length, fresh, 9.50 inches; wing, 5.25; tail, 3.38; bill, .62; tarsus, .75

Habitat. The Island of Grenada, West Indies. Type in the National Museum, Washington.

REMARKS. — As it somewhat resembles the description of *T. vinaceo-rufa* Ridg., I sent it to Mr. Ridgway requesting him to make a comparison with the type of that species; he writes that it differs from it “in shorter tail, with the feathers much broader and more rounded at the end; decidedly smaller bill, much less purplish crissum, and in having the tail-feathers much more gray, with the terminal portion of the lateral ones much paler and of a more uniform rufous.”

Mr. J. G. Wells of Grenada in his manuscript list of the birds of that island, gives the name ‘Trinidad Dove’ to one of the species. For a year or more I have been urging him to procure a specimen that it might be identified. He wrote that his engagements would not admit of his going after it, as it was found

only in a distant part of the island. A few days since I was much pleased to receive a letter from him, together with a specimen of the desired Dove.

He wrote as follows: "It is with great pleasure I now forward to you by book post, a skin of the Dove known locally as the Trinidad Ground Dove. This bird was shot on the eastern side of the island and sent to me by a brother of mine, who knew I was anxious to procure a specimen of it; it is not a common bird. I have shot three or four of them on a small island off the south coast called 'Glover's Island,' where I believe they resort during the nesting period, and I have also shot one in Carriacou, but have never until this instance seen one taken on the island proper; the present specimen is a ♀, and I would have been very glad to get a ♂ also, as (writing from memory) I believe the ♂ to have a gray head; however, I shall use every endeavor to procure one."

2. *Zenaida bogotensis*.

Front and sides of the head vinaceous; under the ear a spot of black; vertex and occiput dull plumbeous; plumage above brownish-olive, reddish on the back; sides of the neck golden-violet; the two middle tail-feathers are dark olive-brown, the next pair are brownish-ash, the others are grayish-ash for two-thirds their length, ending with pale rufous, brightest on the three outer feathers; all have a subterminal band of black separating the two colors; the outer web of the first lateral feather is clear light rufous; the tail-feathers underneath have their bases blackish; the tail consists of fourteen rectrices; the lesser wing-coverts are reddish-brown, lighter in color than the back; the greater wing-coverts are grayish-brown, the primary and secondary quills are blackish-brown, narrowly edged with white, and have their shafts of a dark brownish-red; the tertiaries are reddish-brown, marked with three large oval spots of black; under wing-coverts and axillars plumbeous-white; chin whitish, upper part of throat pale vinaceous, lower part of throat and upper part of breast of a dull chocolate cinnamon color; the breast below this is pale cinnamon, the abdomen of the same color but brighter, and the under tail-coverts of a still deeper and brighter cinnamon; the flanks are ashy-blue; the bill is black; the feet, in the dried specimen, are yellowish.

Length, uncertain (the skin being made up very short); wing, 6.13; tail, 4.10; bill, .70; tarsus, .87.

Habitat. Bogota, New Grenada. Type in my collection.

REMARKS. — I have had this specimen for several years, supposing it to be *L. ruficauda* Bonap., but while investigating the West India species, I find it to be distinct. In this opinion

Mr. Ridway concurs, and says "it differs from *T. vinaceo-rufa* in much deeper general coloration, the very different color of the crissum (rufous instead of purplish vinaceous), and much larger size, especially the bill."

T. ruficauda seems to be a rare species, as there is no specimen in the National Museum or in that of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. It is described as being quite dark above ("brunneo-ardesiaca"), with the hind neck plumbeous; below and on the neck rosy wine color; a spot under the eye and a line behind the eye, violet-black, bordered with white; sides of the neck golden-violet; wing-coverts "ardesiatic"; quills blackish, tail short, outer tail-feathers "fusco-ardesiatic," with a black spot across the middle, the end broadly rufous.

NEW YORK, September 15, 1885.

HELMINTHOPHILA LEUCOBONCHIALIS.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

WITHOUT having any new evidence to present concerning this perplexing bird in the way of additional specimens, I would like to offer for consideration a hypothesis which it seems to me affords a more plausible explanation of certain aspects of the case than that which suggests hybridism between simply *H. chrysoptera* and *H. pinus* as sufficient to account for the variable 'aberrant' series which has been referred to *H. leucobronchialis*, together with those which represent the so-called *H. lawrencei*.

It has been stated that *H. leucobronchialis* and *H. lawrencei* possess no important original characters. This is certainly true of the latter, which is very obviously a hybrid of the above-named species; but it is not true of the former, which in its pure white throat, in very striking contradistinction to the deep gray or black throat of one and bright yellow throat of the other alleged parent, certainly does possess one very important original character, which it is impossible to conceive can be derived from the crossing of the two species in question.