

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Dovekie on the Coast of North Carolina.**—I wish to record the capture of a male Dovekie (*Alle alle*) January 20, 1905, on the beach of the Currituck Shooting Club, N. C., half a mile south of the Life Saving Station. The bird was picked up alive. It only lived a day. It was sent to me in the flesh by a member of the Club and is now in my collection. — JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

**The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) near Ottawa.**—A bird of the year of this species was given to me, which had been caught in a trap set for otter or muskrats near High Falls, Wright Co., Quebec, forty miles northeast of Ottawa. It measured 77 inches from tip to tip. This species has not been reported from this vicinity for years. The Bald Eagle is a little more frequent.—C. W. G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ont.*

**The Genus *Conurus* in the West Indies.**—The distribution of the genus *Conurus* in the West Indies is worthy of notice. In the Greater Antilles it is found on Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, Porto Rico, and St. Thomas. It was formerly found (*C. euops*) on the Isle of Pines, but there are no records of its occurrence on islands other than those mentioned, although *Amazona* is found on Grand Cayman and in the Bahamas. All the species to which we have reference in literature have survived to the present day. One extra-limital species of parakeet, *Brotogerys tui*, has been credited to these islands, the mistake apparently having been first made in the Planches Enluminees (No. 456, fig. 1, "La Petite Perruche de l'Isle St. Thomas" = *B. tui*). In the Lesser Antilles parakeets are now everywhere extinct, but we have good evidence that they formerly existed on Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and Barbados. Here, as in the Greater Antilles, their distribution was apparently erratic; Barbados, with no other genus of Psittacidae, corresponds to St. Thomas, while St. Lucia and St. Vincent, each with an *Amazona*, resemble Grand Cayman and the Bahamas. It is difficult to understand why some of the other islands, such as St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, St. Vincent, and Grenada, but more especially Tobago and Trinidad, have never, so far as known, had as a resident any species of *Conurus*.

The parakeet, unfortunately, appears to have been too small to attract the attention of the earlier writers, and we therefore find the references brief and unsatisfactory. Dutertre (Hist. gén. des Isles des Christophe, de la Guadeloupe, etc., p. 299, 1654; Hist. gén. des Antilles habitées par les François, II, p. 251, 1667), de Rochefort (Hist. nat. et morale des Isles Antilles, p. 157, 1658; p. 175, 1665), and Labat (Nouv. voyage aux Isles de l'Amérique, II, p. 218, 1742) all mention them and give good accounts of their habits and characteristics, but in no case give enough description to enable us to identify the species to which the birds belonged. The

parrakeet of Guadeloupe is said to have been the smallest of the Antillean species, and to have been green throughout except for some small red feathers in the head, with a white beak, and about the size of a thrush (Labat).

Brisson (Orn., IV, p. 330, 1760) under "La Perruche de la Guadeloupe" says: "Size of a half grown chicken, green throughout; naked skin about eye, white; iris red; cere white; beak, feet, and claws, white. Found in Brazil and Guadeloupe." This description was probably founded on that of Labat, and is unfortunately applicable to more than one species, although, perhaps, it may best be referred to *Conurus euops*. It cannot have been taken from a Cuban bird, however, as Labat was for many years a resident in these islands, and was well aware that the avifauna of any one differs markedly from that of any of the others.

Under the name of "La Perruche de la Martinique," Brisson (*t. c.*, p. 356) gives a description of a bird which covers perfectly the well-known *Conurus æruginosus* of the mainland, referring to Edwards (Birds IV, pl. 177, p. 177, 1751) for a figure of the species. It is on this plate and description that Linnæus's [*Psittacus*] *æruginosus* (Syst. Nat., I, p. 142, No. 17, 1766) is founded. Brisson says that this bird is found in Martinique, and also in various places on the mainland, while Edwards gives for it the rather vague habitat of "West Indies." Very likely this is a case of a continental species wrongly credited to the Antilles (comparable to that of *Brotogeris tui*); but we have no evidence to show that this is the case, and it is not at all improbable that the *Conurus* of Martinique was a brown-throated species, similar to *C. æruginosus*.

There appears to be no description extant of the species which formerly inhabited Dominica; but it seems to have been exterminated at an early date. Ober's remarks (quoted by Lawrence, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, p. 64, 1878) doubtless had reference to *Amazona bouqueti*, and not to any species of *Conurus*.

Hughes, in his 'Natural History of Barbados' (1750) under "The Parakite" (p. 73) says: "This is of the frugivorous kind, and about the bigness of a thrush, having a longer and more crooked bill. It feeds on all manner of berries, popaws, and ripe plantains, residing chiefly in inaccessible gullies. The bird borrows its name from its resemblance in make, but not in plumage, to the small green parakite." Sir Robert Schomburgk (Hist. Barbados, p. 681, 1848) includes "*Psittacus passerinus*" in his list of the birds of the island, but no parrakeet is mentioned by Ligon.

In summing up the above it will be seen that, while there appears to be ample evidence for admitting the genus *Conurus* into the avifauna of the Lesser Antilles as formerly resident on Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and Barbados, all that we can say respecting the species is that the one on Guadeloupe was the smallest (of those on the French islands), and resembled *C. euops* of Cuba. Whether the Lesser Antillean birds were colonies of continental species (comparable to the case of *Ceryle torquata* [*sticti-*

*pennis*], *Antrostomus rufus*, or *Urubitinga anthracina* [*caucrivora*]), whether they were seasonal visitants (as *C. æruginosus* appears to be on Margarita Island, and *Muscivora tyrannus* is on Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, and the southern Grenadines), or whether they were distinct endemic species we cannot determine, nor can we judge from the other genera of Psittacidae, *Ara* and *Amazona*, inhabiting these islands; for *Conurus* is more restless in its habits, and more apt to cross wide stretches of water than the species belonging to these genera, and we have one West Indian species (*C. pertinax*) which has a peculiarly interrupted range (St. Thomas and Curaçao), a circumstance not known to occur in any species of *Ara* or *Amazona*.—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *Boston, Mass.*

**Nesting of the Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*) at Cumberland, Md.**—In my list of birds of western Maryland (Auk, XXI, 1904, p. 234) I mentioned, besides a large permanent colony six miles from the city, a very noisy pair that I had seen on Will's Mountain, right at the city limits. When on a visit to this my former home last summer, I was informed by my former assistants that a pair of Ravens had nested that spring in the 'Narrows.' This is a highly romantic and picturesque cañon in Will's Mountain which otherwise runs on unbroken for many miles, and forms the only outlet from Cumberland to the north, so that several railroads and street car lines pass through at the bottom. I found the boy, a very intelligent lad of fifteen, who had discovered and investigated the nest and taken the young ones along. He stated this to me, corroborated by others: The nest was in a well nigh inaccessible place on the side of the cliff overlooking the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. It was built of large sticks, some horsehair, rags, and in the middle much of the shredded rag put by railroaders in the axle-boxes of railway cars. He went to the nest March 28 for the first time and found three nearly full grown young; he thinks they must have been a month old. He took two along, with the intention of raising them. The old ones were very vicious, flew close to him, as though wanting to strike at him, and made a great uproar. April 4 he got the remaining one, which also showed fight, even for a while in captivity. The first two died after several weeks, being exhibited in show windows, etc., but the third one was still alive August 2, when I saw it. It seemed to be then somewhat attached to its master and upon his word would come out of the woodshed, if no strangers were about. The old ravens remained at the Narrows; I saw and heard them July 20, but they made no further attempts that year at raising a brood. They evidently must have lost a good deal of their fear of man, for the upper edge of these cliffs is almost daily visited by sightseers.—C. W. G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ont.*

**A One-legged Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).**—On May 6 of last year, while out in the woods with a friend, he shot a crow out of a tall, slender