

XXII. *Description of a New Species of Cypselidæ, of the Genus Chætura.*

BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

Read November 11, 1878.

Chætura Dominicana.

Chætura poliura, Lawr. (nec Temm.), Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, p. 62.

MALE. Upper plumage smoky-black; lores black: rump dark ash; upper tail-coverts brownish-black, just edged with whitish; tail glossy black, the spines fine and projecting for nearly a quarter of an inch; wings glossy black; throat dark grayish-ash; breast and abdomen of a warm smoky-brown; under tail-coverts brownish-black; bill black; feet yellowish-brown.

Length (fresh), 4 5-8 inches; wing, 4 1-2; tail, 1 5-8.

The female is similar to the male in plumage.

Habitat, Dominica.

Types in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. In my Catalogue of the Birds of Dominica (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1878), I referred this species, provisionally to *C. poliura*, Temm., being partly induced to do so because that species was noted from Tobago, comparatively a not very distant point. I then stated that it agreed quite well with the measurements given of that species by Mr. Sclater, in his Notes of the Cypselidæ (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1865, p. 593), but that the wing was shorter. The measurement of 3 7-8 inches, given by me, was taken from Mr. Ober's note, and is clearly an error, as, in the four specimens sent, the wings of each measure 4 1-2 inches.

Quite lately I received a collection made in Tobago by Mr. Ober, and found in it an example of *C. brachyura*, Jard., which Mr. Sclater says, "Does not seem to be decidedly different from *C. poliura*, Temm., although the tail is rather shorter

and the upper coverts are much produced, so as to reach nearly to the end of the rectrices." In Mr. Ober's example from Tobago, the upper coverts reach quite to the end of the tail-feathers.

The species from Dominica is very distinct, and I think is undescribed. The Tobago bird is blacker above, and has the abdomen also black; it is at once distinguished by its light ashy upper tail-coverts.

The only other species requiring notice, if it really does, is the *Hirundo acuta*, Gm., from Martinique, which does not seem to be recognized by late writers, and is not noticed by Mr. Selater in his Notes of the Cypselidæ. The locality given for it, viz., Martinique, is what has induced me to allude to it.

Gmelin's name is based upon the "Sharp-tailed Swallow" of Latham, who gives the size as that of a wren, "length three inches and eight lines;" he cites Buffon and Brisson. It is "L'Hirondelle noire acutipenne de la Martinique" of Buffon, Pl. Enl., No. 544. He describes it as being very small, the size of a wren, the length 3 inches and 8 lines; the whole upper part of the body without exception black, etc., the wings extending beyond the tail eight lines. Boddært refers this to *H. pelasgia*, Linn., but they do not agree in size or color.

It is "*Hirundo Martinicana*" of Brisson, who also gives its size as that of a wren, and its length 3 inches 8 lines; alar extent 8 inches; wings extending 8 lines beyond the tail; he names all the upper parts as being black, among them the uropygium.

The Dominica bird differs strikingly from this, the length being 4 7-8 inches; alar extent, 10 1-2 inches; the wings extending two inches beyond the tail, and the rump being ashy.

This Martinique species, if correctly described, remains yet to be rediscovered.



Lawrence, George N. 1879. "Description of a new species of Cypselidae, of the genus *Chaetura* (Art. XXII)." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1, 255–256. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1879.tb55127.x>.

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