

DESCRIPTION OF THREE SUPPOSED NEW HONEY CREEPERS
FROM THE LESSER ANTILLES, WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE
SPECIES OF THE GENUS CERTHIOLA.

R. (2)

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Certhiola finschi, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *C. martinicana*, Reich., but smaller, the superciliary stripe for the greater part bright yellow, and the upper parts (except head) decidedly paler.

Adult ♂ (type No. 90610, "Dominica"; C. J. Maynard & Co.): Pileum and entire side of head, including sides of throat, blackish slate, the pileum bordered on each side by a very sharply defined superciliary stripe, extending from the forehead to the end of the auriculars, of bright yellow, the anterior and posterior extremities, however, white; a small white spot on each side of the nape, about .10–.15 of an inch below the end of the superciliary stripe. Upper parts uniform dull slate-color, the lower part of the rump crossed by a narrow band of yellowish olive-green. Wing-coverts narrowly and indistinctly tipped with light grayish. A broad stripe on the middle of the throat, extending nearly to the angle of the chin, and about .40 of an inch wide posteriorly, grayish white. Lower parts olive-yellow, nearly pure yellow on the jugulum, paler and more grayish on the flanks; anal region and crissum dull white, the lower tail-coverts grayish basally. Inner web of lateral tail-feathers broadly tipped with white, the white extending about .30 of an inch from the tip; second feather with a smaller white terminal spot, and third feather with a narrow terminal margin of white. Wing, 2.30; tail, 1.65; culmen, .59; bill from nostril, .38; tarsus, .65; middle toe, .40.

Although the type specimen of this species is stated to have been obtained in Dominica, there is reason to doubt the correctness of this locality. Three other specimens bearing a similar label are identical with the Guadeloupe bird (*C. sundevalli*, nobis), and probably came from that island.

C. finschi is related to *C. martinicana*, Reich., but a typical example of the latter, from Martinique, differs in larger size, and in having the superciliary stripe entirely white; it also lacks the white spot on side of nape, and the pale tips to the wing-coverts, and has the upper parts black, like the head. It measures as follows: Wing, 2.50; tail, 1.80; culmen, .65; bill from nostril, .42; tarsus, .75; middle toe, .40.

An example of what is apparently *C. finschi* is mentioned by Dr. Finsch in his "Monographie der Gattung Certhiola," p. 789, as follows: "I am indebted to the curators of the imperial collection at Vienna

for a younger bird. This (received from Verreaux, in the year 1815, without a near statement of the locality) is quite like the old one described above, only that the mantle is somewhat duller, the superciliary stripe is not white, but yellow, the individual feathers bordering the white throat-stripe and the coverts of the secondaries, nearly all show a pale, buffy, whitish margin, which gives rise to a somewhat more distinct light cross-band on the wing; a second band, but by far less distinct, is indicated by the pale margins of the greater upper wing-coverts." (Translation.)

The measurements unfortunately are not given; but the plumage as described agrees very closely with that of the type of our *C. finschi*.

While it is possible that the yellow superciliary stripe and pale wing-covert tips indicate immaturity, the real young plumage, or first plumage, of the *Certhiolæ* is very different from that of the adult, the boldly-marked "pattern" of the latter being wholly wanting. At the same time, in the case of the type of *C. finschi* the very different proportions and dissimilar color of the back could hardly thus be accounted for.

In the collection of the United States National Museum are five *certhiolæ*, resembling *C. dominicana*, but differing in having the middle portion of the superciliary stripe yellow, and the upper parts more slaty. One of these is from Guadeloupe, and one from Dominica. The remaining three are stated on the label to have been obtained in Dominica, but the authority cannot, in this case at least, be depended on. These are certainly not *young* birds of *C. dominicana*, although they may represent some special phase of plumage in that species. For the present, however, I propose to consider them representing a distinct form, which it is proposed to name

✦ *Certhiola sundevalli*, sp. nov. (?)

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *C. dominicana*, but superciliary stripe yellow for at least the anterior half, and the upper parts more slaty.

Adult (type No. 79953, U. S. Nat. Mus., Guadeloupe, W. I.; L. Guesde): Above blackish slate, darker on the head, the lower part of the rump crossed by a narrow band of yellowish olive-green. Forehead pale gray, darker anteriorly; a superciliary stripe confluent anteriorly with the gray of the forehead, extending back to the end of the auriculars, and yellow for the anterior two-thirds, the posterior extremity white; chin, throat, and cheeks, deep plumbeous; jugulum, breast, sides, and abdomen yellow, paler and more grayish on the flanks; anal region and crissum dull white, the longer feathers of the latter grayish basally. Lining of wing including axillars and inner margins of remiges pure white. Inner webs of rectrices tipped with grayish white, that on lateral feather extended nearly .40 of an inch from the tip. Wing, 2.40; tail, 1.65; culmen, .60, bill from nostril, .40; tarsus, .70; middle toe, .49.

Three specimens, stated on the labels to be from Dominica, but per-

haps not from that island, agree substantially with the type. Two of them, however, have much less gray on the forehead, and the yellow superciliary stripe commences immediately above the eye. Another, undoubtedly from Dominica, and without question an immature bird in transition plumage, has the forehead tinged with yellow.

Having had occasion, in connection with the determination of the above-described forms, and also with the comparison of a series of *C. caboti* from Cozumel, to carefully examine the entire collection of these birds in the National Museum, the desirability of a new synoptical "key" to the species, became apparent. The subject was carefully and satisfactorily brought up to date in 1874 by Professor Baird (see *Hist. N. Am. B.*, I, pp. 426-428) but material for study, and consequently our knowledge of the subject, has been increased somewhat since the publication of Professor Baird's synopsis. The following key is based entirely on the National Museum collection, embracing some two hundred skins. It may be premised that division of the genus into groups or sections is somewhat difficult, from the fact that almost any character which may be selected to define these is more or less variable. Thus, in some forms it is difficult, if possible, to determine satisfactorily whether the head is concolor with the back or darker; while as to the wing-spot, one species of the group said to have none has occasionally a very obvious though small, "speculum"; while, on the other hand, a species of the other group has the speculum sometimes so reduced in size as to be practically obsolete.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CERTHIOLA*.

A.—Plumage parti-colored (blackish, yellow, white, &c.).

a. A distinct white spot or "speculum" at base of primaries (rarely obsolete in *C. mexicana columbiana*).

§. Throat grayish white.

+ 1. *C. bahamensis*. Yellow confined to breast; black loreal streak very narrow; cheeks white almost to the eye; both webs of outer rectrices broadly tipped with white. *Hab.* Bahamas; coast of southern Florida.

+ 2. *C. caboti*. Yellow extended over abdomen and flanks; black loreal streak broader than the white above it, and continued broadly beneath the eye; white tip of outer tail-feather smaller, and mainly confined to inner web. Back darker. *Hab.* Cozumel I., Yucatan.

+ 3. *C. tricolor*. Similar to *C. caboti* in extent of the yellow beneath, but agreeing with *C. bahamensis* in narrow loreal and suborbital streak, broad white tips to both webs of outer rectrices, and larger wing spot; back darker even than in *C. caboti*. *Hab.* Island of Old Providence, Caribbean Sea.

§§. Throat light ash-gray.

+ 4. *C. mexicana*. Back brownish slate; rump olive-green or olive-yellow; inner web of outer tail feathers with small terminal spot of white; wing-spot small, sometimes nearly obsolete; wing not more than 2.30 inches.

+ α. *Mexicana*. Rump olive-green. *Hab.* Mexico and Central America to Chiriqui.

+ β. *Columbiana*. Rump olive-yellow. *Hab.* Panama to Peru.

- + 5. *C. luteola*. Back black; rump bright yellow; inner web of lateral tail feathers, with large terminal spot of white; wing-spot large; wing 2.30 or more. *Hab.* Northern South America (Tobago, Trinidad, Venezuela, coast of Colombia).
- + 6. *C. sancti-thomæ*. Back slate-color; rump olive-yellow; throat light gray, as in *luteola*. *Hab.* St. Thomas and St. John's, W. I.
- + 7. *C. portoricensis*. Back dark sooty slate, or blackish slate; rump olive-yellow; throat much darker gray than in *sancti-thomæ*. *Hab.* Porto Rico.
- + 8. *C. bananivora*. Similar to *C. portoricensis*, but yellow of rump more restricted and lighter in tint; yellow of breast, lighter, and bill smaller. *Hab.* Haiti.
- + 9. *C. bartholemica*. Forehead dull dark grayish, the superciliary stripe beginning immediately above the eye; wing-spots very small; lower part of rump olive-green. *Hab.* Island of St. Bartholomew, Lesser Antilles.
- + 10. *C. saccharina*. Similar to *C. portoricensis*, but throat rather darker slate, breast, etc., clearer yellow, lower rump olive-green, and back more slaty. *Hab.* St. Vincent and Grenada.
- + 11. *C. flaveola*. Similar to *C. portoricensis*, but throat much darker slate; breast darker or duller yellow; rump brighter yellow; wing-spot much more extended, and white spots on ends of outer rectrices, larger and involving both webs. *Hab.* Jamaica.
- + 12. *C. newtoni*. Similar to *C. flaveola*, but wing-spot more truncate posteriorly, breast purer yellow, and rump olive-yellow. *Hab.* St. Croix, W. I.
- b. No white spot or "speculum" at base of primaries.
- § Throat unicolored.
- + 13. *C. dominicana*. Superciliary stripe indistinct anteriorly; the whole frontal region sometimes grayish, and the superciliary stripe sometimes (in younger birds?) partly yellow; throat dark slate; lower part of rump with an indistinct narrow band of olive-green. *Hab.* Islands of Dominica, Antigua, Barbuda, Nevis, St. Eustatius, Guadeloupe, and Saba, Lesser Antilles.
- + 14. *C. sundevalli*. Similar to *C. dominicana*, but superciliary stripe with at least the anterior half yellow, and the back rather more slaty. *Hab.* Dominica and Guadeloupe. (May be a special phase of *C. dominicana*).
- + 15. *C. chloropyga*. Throat ash-gray; back brownish slate; whole lower rump olive-yellow. *Hab.* Coast of Brazil, north to Guiana.
- §§. Throat bicolored.
- + 16. *C. barbadensis*. Upper part of throat slate-black, bordered laterally by a gray rictal patch, and below by a yellowish-white patch, separating the black from the yellow of the jugulum. Upper parts as in *C. dominicana*, but superciliary stripe broadest and most sharply defined anteriorly. *Hab.* Barbadoes, W. I.
- + 17. *C. martinicana*. Throat grayish white medially, blackish laterally; back slate-black, superciliary stripe entirely white; no white spot on side of nape; wing 2.50, tail 1.85. *Hab.* Martinique.
- + 18. *C. finschi*. Similar to *C. martinicana*, but back slate-color; superciliary stripe, mostly bright yellow; a small white spot on each side of nape. Wing 2.30, tail, 1.60. *Hab.* "Dominica." (???)

B.—Plumage unicolored (entirely black).

- + 19. *C. atrata*. Deep black, but showing, distinctly an olive-green tinge on lower rump and on breast. *Hab.* St. Vincent and Grenada. (Perhaps a melanotic variety of *C. saccharina*).

The principal references and synonyms of the above-named forms are as follows :

+ 1. *Certhiola bahamensis*, Reichenbach.

Certhiola bahamensis, REICH., Handb. i, 1853, 253 (based on *Certhia bahamensis* CATESB. Car. tab. 59).—SUND. Öfv. of K. vetensk.-Akad. Stöckh. 1869, 624.*—FINSCH, verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell, Wien, 1871, 751, 752†.—BAIRD, Am. Nat. vii, 1873, 612‡; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 1874, 428§, pl. xix, fig. 5.—RIDGW. Nom. N. Am. B. 1881, No. 159.

Certhiola flaveola, BAIRD, B. N. Am. 1858, 924; ed. 1860, pl. lxxxiii, fig. 3 (Indian Key, Fla.); Cat. N. Am. B. 1859, No. 301.

Certhiola bairdii, CABAN. J. f. O. 1865, 412.—SUND., t. c., p. 621.

+ 2. *Certhiola caboti*, Baird.

Certhiola caboti, "BAIRD (MS.)" FINSCH, t. c., p. 790.—BAIRD, Am. Nat. vii, Oct. 1873, 612 (Cozumel I., Yucatan); in Hist. N. Am. B., i, p. 427.—SALV. Ibis, 1874, 327.—SALV. & GODM. Biol. Centr. Am. Aves, i, 1883, 251, pl. xv, fig. 4.

+ 3. *Certhiola tricolor*, Ridgway.

Certhiola tricolor, RIDGW., Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. vii, July 29, 1884, 178 (island of Old Providence, Caribbean Sea).

+ 4. *Certhiola mexicana*, Selater.

+ (α . *Mexicana*.)

Certhiola mexicana, SCL., P. Z. S. 1856, 286 (South Mexico).—SUND., t. c., p. 623.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 752, 772.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, p. 428.—SALV. & GODM. t. c., p. 250.

+ (β . *Columbiana*.)

? *Certhiola peruviana*, CAB., J. f. O. 1865, 413.—SUND., t. c., p. 623.

! *Certhiola peruviana*, BAIRD, tt. c.

Certhiola columbiana, CAB., t. c., p. 412 (Bogota).—SUND., t. c., p. 622.

+ 5. *Certhiola luteola*, Cabanis.

Certhiola luteola, CAB., Mus. Hein., i, 1851, 96.—SUND., t. c., p. 621.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 751, 767.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 427.

Certhiola major (part), CAB. t. c., p. 97 (Guiana).—SUND. t. c., p. 622.

? *Certhiola minor*, BONAP., Compt. Rend., 1854, 259.—SUND., t. c., p. 622.—FINSCH, t. c., p. 790.

+ 6. *Certhiola sancti-thomæ*, sp. nov.

Certhiola portoricensis (part), FINSCH, t. c., p. 760.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 611; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, p. 427 (part).

+ 7. *Certhiola portoricensis*, (Bryant) Sundevall.

Certhiola flaveola var. *portoricensis*, BRYANT, Pr. Boston Soc. N. H. Jan., 1866.

Certhiola portoricensis, SUND., t. c., p. 622.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 751, 760.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 611; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 427.

* Öfversigt af släktet *Certhiola*. Af Carl J. Sundevall. <Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetensk.-Akad. Förhand. [Stockholm] 1869, N:o 6, pp. 619—625.

† Monographie der Gattung *Certhiola*, von Dr. O. Finsch in Bremen. <Verh. der k. k. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. in Wien, 1871, pp. 739—790, Taf. iv. [A critical review or monograph of the species then known to the author, with a colored map illustrating their geographical distribution.]

‡ On some New Forms of American Birds, [including a] synopsis of the species of the Genus *Certhiola*, Sundevall. By Spencer F. Baird. <American Naturalist, vii, Oct. 1873, pp. 609—613.

§ The same synopsis, with some slight modifications, reprinted in "History of North American Birds," pp. 426—428, incl.

- + **8. *Certhiola bananivora*, (Gmel.) Baird.**
Motacilla bananivora, GMEL., S. N., I, ii, 1788, 951 (based on *Bananiste* of BUFFON and *Banana Warbler* of LATHAM; St. Domingo).
Certhiola bananivora, BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 427.
Certhiola clusiæ, HERZ. v. WURT. Naumannia, ii, Heft. 3, 1852, 56 (no descr.).—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 751, 771.
- + **9. *Certhiola bartholemica*, Sundevall.**
Certhia bartholemica, SPARRM., Mus. Carls., fasc. iii, 1788, No. 57.—BECHST., Lath. Web. i, 1793, 611 (ex SPARRM.).
Certhiola bartholemica, SUND., t. c., p. 622.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 751, 753.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428.
- + **10. *Certhiola saccharina*, Lawrence.**
Certhiola saccharina, LAWR., Ann. N. Y. Ac. Sci. i, June, 1878, 151 (St. Vincent); Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., i, 1878, 190, 487.
- + **11. *Certhiola flaveola*, (Linn.) Gray.**
Certhia flaveola, LINN., S. N. ed. 10, 1758, 119 (based on SLOANE, Jam., 2, p. 307, t. 259; EDW. av. 122, t. 122).
Certhiola flaveola (part), GRAY, Gen. B., i, Jan., 1846, 102.—BP. Compt. Rend. 1854, 259.—SUND. t. c., p. 621.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 751, 756.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 611; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 427.
- + **12. *Certhiola newtoni*, Baird.**
Certhiola newtoni, BAIRD, Am. Nat., vii., Oct. 1873, 611; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 427.
Certhiola flaveola, A. & E. NEWTON, Ibis, 1859, 67 (St. Croix).
- + **13. *Certhiola dominicana*, Taylor.**
Certhiola dominicana, TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 167.—SUND. t. c., p. 623.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 752, 787.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428.
Certhiola frontalis, BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428 (Antigua).
- + **14. *Certhiola sundevalli*, sp. nov.**
- + **15. *Certhiola chlorophyga*, Cabanis.**
Certhiola chlorophyga, CAB., Mus. Hein. i, 1851, 97 (Bahia).—SUND., t. c., p. 624.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 752, 779.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 613; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428.
Certhiola guianensis, CAB., l. c.—SUND. t. c., p. 624.
Certhiola majuscula, CAB., J. f. O. 1865, 413 (E. Peru). Cf. FINSCH, t. c., p. 778.
? *Certhiola minimi*, BP. Compt. Rend. 1854, 259.—SUND., t. c., p. 625.
- + **16. *Certhiola barbadensis*, Baird.**
Certhiola barbadensis, BAIRD, Am. Nat. vii, Oct. 1873, 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428.
- + **17. *Certhiola martinicana*, Reichenbach.**
Certhiola martinicana, REICH., Handb. Scans. 1853, 252, tab. DLXI., fig. 3824.—FINSCH, t. c., pp. 752, 788.—BAIRD, t. c., p. 612; in Hist. N. Am. B., i, 428.
Certhiola albigula, BP., Compt. Rend. 1854, 259.—SUND., t. c., p. 624.
- + **18. *Certhiola finschi*, sp. nov.**
- + **19. *Certhiola atrata*, Lawrence.**
?? *Dicæum aterrimum*, LESS., Traité, 1831, 303 (hab. ignot.).—PUCH., Rev. Zool. 1846, 134 (St. Thomas).
Certhiola atrata, LAWR., Ann. N. Y. Ac. i, June, 1878, 150; Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., i, 1878, 190 (St. Vincent), 269 (Granada).

The following is unknown to me:

Certhiola magnirostris, TACZANOWSKI, P. Z. S. 1880, 193 (Callacate, n. Peru, alt. 4,800-5,200 ft.).



Ridgway, Robert. 1885. "Description of three supposed new honey creepers from the Lesser Antilles, with a synopsis of the species of the genus *Certhiola*." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 8(478), 25–30.
<https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.478.25>.

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