

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF ARDETTA.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

Ardetta neoxena, SP. NOV.

SP. CHAR.—Top of the head, back, and tail dark greenish black, showing a green gloss when held in the light. Sides of the head and throat rufous chestnut, the feathers on the back of the neck showing greenish black tips. Breast and underparts nearly uniform rufous chestnut, shading into dull black on the sides; wing-coverts dark rufous chestnut; under wing-coverts paler chestnut. All the remiges entirely slaty plumbeous. Under tail-coverts uniform dull black.

Total length, 10.80; wing, 4.30; tarsus, 1.40; culmen, 1.80.

HABITAT. Florida. Okeechobee region?

In the specimen above described two of the flank feathers on one side are white; but this may be attributed to albinism. There is no trace of a stripe on the sides of the back, as in *A. exilis*. The bird in question is claimed to have been shot in Southwest Florida, and was brought to Tampa with a number of other species, including *A. exilis*, *Anas fulvigula*, and *Ajaja ajaja*. It is without doubt perfectly distinct from any other known species.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Grieve on the Great Auk, or Garefowl.—The bird the portrait of which adorns the title-page of 'The Auk,' has exercised a remarkable attraction on monographers, for not a year has passed since Professor Blasius's exhaustive treatment of the subject, before we receive Mr. Grieve's sumptuous quarto volume on 'The Great Auk, or Garefowl.*'

In order to give the reader an idea of the scope of this work we give the headings of the different chapters into which the book is divided, as follows: I, Introduction; II, The Distribution of the Great Auk—The living bird in its American Habitats; III, The Living Great Auk in its European

*The Great Auk, or Garefowl | (*Alca impennis* Linn.) | Its History, Archæology and Remains | By | Symington Grieve | Edinburgh | London | Thomas C. Jack, 45 Ludgate Hill | Edinburgh: Grange Publishing Works | 1885. 4to., pp. xii + 141 + App. 58. With 4 plates, several wood-cuts, and a map.