Cæreba cyanea is found over nearly the whole of the continental portion of the Neotropical region, being an inhabitant of the low-lying country up to an elevation of about 3000 or 4000 feet. We once observed it at Dueñas in Guatemala at a height of nearly 5000 feet; but its occurrence so high must be considered exceptional. So far as our experience goes, it is not a bird of the open savannas, but resorts to the edges of the forests and second-growth woods, and may even be seen in the hedgerows of villages in such situations. It is absent from the West-Indian islands with the exception of Cuba, where, singularly enough, it occurs to the exclusion of all species of Certhiola, whose place it seems to take. This is the more remarkable, as the Antilles foster Certhiola to such an extent that nearly every island has its distinct race.

In 1859 Mr. Sclater separated Mexican specimens of C. cyanea under the name of C. carneipes, at the same time doubting whether the minute differential characters to which he drew attention were really of specific value. The receipt of a large series of specimens from a wide unbroken range has convinced us that no such separation can be maintained; the bird, in fact, being unusually constant in its coloration, considering the vast area over which it is spread.

In its habits C. cyanea is restless in search of insects, climbing over every twig and examining every leaf in its way. We never met with its nest or eggs.

2. Cæreba lucida.


Cæreba cærulea, Sel. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 140.

Indigotico-cærulea; capite paulo dilutiore, fronte, loris, gula usque ad pectus, alis et cauda nigris; rostro nigro, pedibus carneis. Long. tota 4-0, alae 2-3, caudae 1-3, rostri a rictu 0-85, tarsi 5-5. (Descr. maris ex Choctum, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

♀ viridis; subitus sordide albicans, pectore toto viride striato, hypochondriis viridibus. (Descr. feminae ex Choctum, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. GUATEMALA (Skinner), Choctum (O. S. & F. D. G.); HONDURAS (Leyland); PANAMA, David (Bridges), Bugaba (Arcé), line of Railway (M-Leannan).

This Central-American species seems fairly separable from C. cærulea of the Southern continent; not only does the colour of the male differ in being of a less dense purplish-blue, but the black of the throat extends further on to the breast. These differences are very apparent when Central-American and Guiana birds are compared.