AMBLYCERCUS.—DOLICHONYX.

Dueñas 17 18 (O. S.), Choctum, Retanhuleu (O. S. & F. D. G.), Peten (Leyland 21); Honduras, Omoa (Leyland 21), San Pedro (G. M. Whiteley 20); Nicaragua, Greytown (Holland 23), Sucuyá 23, Los Sabalos 20 (Nutting); Costa Rica (Hoffmann 8), San José, Turrialba (v. Frantzius 10 11, Carmiol 10), Tucurrique (v. Frantzius 11), Irazú (Rogers); Panama, Calovevora 25, Calobre 25, Santa Fé 24 (Arcé), Lion Hill Station (McLean- nan 19 22), Paraíso Station (Hughes).—Colombia; Ecuador 14; Peru 5; Venezuela 6.

Amblycercus holosericeus is a very familiar species in Mexico and Central America, where it is found throughout the hot and temperate districts from Southern Mexico to Panama, and thence southwards to Ecuador and Peru.

Its habits are very different from those of Cassicus, being of a skulking disposition, frequenting tangled thickets, where it occupies itself in breaking small dead branches, probably for insect food.

We never observed it in flocks; but Mr. Nutting, who met with it in several parts of Nicaragua, says it is probably gregarious 28 29.

Sumichrast, who ascribes A. holosericeus to the hot and temperate regions of Vera Cruz, says it does not reach the altitude of Orizaba, the limit of its upward range not passing 3380 feet 26. In Guatemala, however, we found it to be common at Cobán at an elevation of between 4000 and 4500 feet, and at Dueñas at nearly 5000 feet.

The iris in life is light yellow, and the bill yellowish green.

Subfam. II. AGELÆNÆ.

Nares plus minusve membrano obiecte; mesorhinum alatum hand dilatatum, complanatum aut modice rotundatum, culmen fere rectus; alarum plumæ secundariae externæ hand elongatae.

DOLICHONYX.


A monotypic genus containing the single well-marked and well-known species described below.

In coloration Dolichonyx curiously resembles Calamospiza bicolor, but the two birds are not by any means nearly related.

D. oryzivorus has a short stout Fringilline bill; the commissure of the maxilla is angulated, but there is no notch near the extremity; the nostrils are large and open, and situated at the lower end of the nasal fossa, a membrane lying along the upper margin; the rictal bristles are very short; the wings are long, the outermost primary being the longest, from which the rest fall rapidly away, the longest secondaries being about equal to the shortest primary; the extremities of the tail-feathers are very acute; the tarsi are rather long and the feet stout, the hind claw being long and slightly decurved.

The male assumes a breeding-dress in spring and changes it again in autumn, when it resembles the female. When in most perfect spring plumage we believe the black