

bird Sphinx, named from this resemblance. There are in their flight exactly the same rapid darts, sudden pauses, and quick turns, the same prolonged hovering over flowers. The most conspicuous bird is called commonly in the island "Black-witch" (*Crotophaga ani?*). These birds are usually to be seen in flocks of three or four, in constant motion amongst the bushes, and screaming harshly when they apprehend danger. The birds behave very much like magpies. They are somewhat smaller than the English magpie and black all over. They belong structurally to the family of the cuckoos (*Cuculidae*).

A large ground spider (*Lycosa*) is very abundant in the island, inhabiting a hole in the ground about six inches in depth, and from half an inch to an inch in diameter, and with a right-angled turn at the bottom to form a resting chamber for the spider. Some negro boys dug the spiders out for me. They said that their bite was poisonous, and that they fed on lizards, leaving their holes at night to search for them. The boys soon grubbed one out with a knife, a great heavy venomous-looking brute about three inches across. It bit savagely at my forceps. The holes of these spiders were so common, that on one tolerably clear patch of about an acre in extent they were dotted over the entire area at about one or two feet distance from one another. I noticed the holes at once, and was astonished when the boys told me they were spiders' holes.

A species of White-ant (*Termes*) is very common: it makes large globular nests as much as two feet in diameter, which are perched high up in the fork of a tree. The nests are made of a hard brown comb. From the bottom of the tree covered galleries about half an inch in breadth lead up on the surface of the bark to the nest, looking like long narrow brown streaks upon the trunk of the tree. The galleries usually follow a somewhat irregular course up the trunk to the nest, reminding one of the curious deviations which are always to be seen in footpaths, cut out by people walking across fields, in their endeavours to go straight from one point to another. The galleries, or rather tubular ways, for they have bottoms to them, are made of the same tough brown substance as the nests, and are cemented firmly to the bark. Though they are so broad in order to allow numerous ants to pass and repass, they are only high enough for the ants to walk under. I broke one of these galleries, and a number of soldier Termites came out and began biting my hands, hardly making themselves felt, but as brave as if they had a sting. I had to break a considerable length of the gallery before I got to any of the working Termites, as they had retired from the scene of danger. A