

small finch and a thrush ; no other land birds were seen. The finch (*Nesospiza Acunhæ*) looks very like a green-finch, and is about the same size.

The thrush (*Nesocichla eremita*) looks like a very dark-coloured song thrush, but it is peculiar for its remarkably strong acutely ridged bill. It is peculiar to the Tristan group. It feeds especially on the berries of the little *Nertera* ; but also is fond of picking the bones of the victims of the predatory gull (*Stercorarius antarcticus*). The finch eats the fruit of the *Phyllica*.

It was here that we first encountered that remarkable tameness and ignorance of danger in birds which has been so constantly noticed by voyagers landing on little frequented islands, and notably by Darwin, who dilates on the fact in his account of the Galapagos Archipelago.

The thrush and finch hopped unconcernedly within a yard or two of us, whilst stone after stone was hurled at them, and till they were knocked over, and often sat still on a bough to be felled with a walking-stick. By whistling a little as one approached them, numbers could be thus killed, and yet the Germans, with their house close by, had been constantly thus killing the thrushes for eating for two years. The birds are, however, not quite so tame in Tristan Island.

The finch seems to have become extinct in Tristan da Cunha itself. Von Willemoes Suhm was told that the Tristan da Cunha people had tried to introduce the bird into their island.*

We were in search of another land bird, a kind of Water-Hen (*Gallinula nesiotis*), which is found on the higher plateau at Tristan, and is described by the inhabitants as scarcely able to fly. We could not meet with a specimen. Only very few inhabit the low land under the cliffs, and we were not able to land at the only place from which the higher main plateau of the island is to be reached.

The Germans said that the Inaccessible Island bird is much smaller than *G. nesiotis*, and differs from it in having finer legs and a longer beak. This is, however, hardly probable, since the Tristan species occurs at Gough Island.

* I presume that the *Nesospiza Acunhæ* of Cabanis, described from old specimens from Bullock's collection, is the *Emberiza Brasiliensis* of Carmichael. No second species of finch was seen or heard of by us as existing now in the islands. The genus *Nesospiza* is peculiar to the Tristan group, but of South American affinity. *Crithagra insularis*, the other finch described by Cabanis as found in the group, is a peculiar species allied to African forms. See P. L. Sclater. "Report on the Birds Collected during the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger.'" "Challenger" Reports. Zoology, vol. ii. Birds, p. 110.