

GENUS LXXX. GALLINULA. GALLINULE.

SPECIES I. *G. MARTINICA.*

MARTINICO GALLINULE.\*

[Plate LXXIII. Fig. 2.]

*Gallinula Martinica*, LATH. *Ind. Orn.* p. 769, 9. *Gen. Syn.* III., p. 255, 7, pl. 88.—  
*Fulica Martinica*, LINN. *Syst.* ed. 12, 1., p. 259, 7.—*Fulica Martinicensis*, GMEL.  
*Syst.* p. 700, 7.—*La petite Poule-Sultane*, BRISS. *Orn.* v., p. 526, pl. 42, fig. 2.—  
BUFF. *Ois.* VIII., p. 206.—*La Favourite de Cayenne*, Pl. *Enl.* No. 897, young?

THIS splendid bird is a native of the southern parts of the continent of North America. I have never learned that it migrates as far north as Virginia, though it is probable that it may be occasionally seen in that state. It makes its appearance, in the Sea-islands of Georgia, in the latter part of April; and after spending the summer, it departs, with its young, in the autumn. The marshes of Mexico appear to be its winter residence. It frequents the rice fields and fresh-water ponds, in company with the Common Gallinule; but the latter, being of a more hardy nature, remains all winter, both in Georgia and Florida.

During its migration, this bird is frequently driven to sea, and I have known two or three instances of its having sought refuge on board of vessels. On the 24th May, 1824, a brig arrived at Philadelphia, from New Orleans, bringing a fine living specimen, which had flown on board of her in the Gulf Stream.

In the month of August, 1818, a storm drove another individual on board of a vessel, in her passage from Savannah to Philadelphia. This also lived for some time in Peale's Museum.

The Martinico Gallinule is a vigorous and active bird. It bites hard, and is quite expert in the use of its feet. When it seizes upon any substance with its toes, it requires a considerable effort to disengage it. Its toes are long, and spread greatly. It runs with swiftness; and, when walking, it jerks its tail in the manner of the Common Rail. Its manners and food are somewhat similar to those of the far-famed Purple Gallinule, whose history is so beautifully detailed in the works of Buffon.

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\* Named in the plate Purple Gallinule.