

of the new world. All naturalists agreed in making the cock a species of bird peculiar to the old world, and absolutely unknown in America: and, of all travellers who had preceded me, the Jesuit Acosta alone had asserted that hens existed in Peru before the arrival of the Spaniards, and that they called them, in the language of that country, *talpa*, and their eggs *ponto*\*. I agree with Acosta in opinion, and these are my reasons for it:

Travelling in the gloomy and solitary forests of Guiana, which yield only to the destroying hand of time, and when Aurora begins to chase away the shadows of night, I frequently heard a cry perfectly similar to the crowing of ~~our cock~~, but less strong and less shrill. Being at a considerable distance from all habitations, I could not suppose that this cry, which my travelling companion heard also very distinctly, could be produced by domestic birds, and the Indians, by whom we were followed, told us it was the crowing of the wild cock.

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\* Acosta was a Spaniard, and the head of the Jesuits at Peru; he died at Salamanca in 1599. He published a natural and moral history of the Indies, in Spanish, and a treatise *de procuranda indorum Salute*. The testimony of such a man may appear of some weight.