

sound, and similar to that of a violoncello. This dull, heavy noise does not issue from the beak; it is formed in the capacity of the abdomen, and does not issue by any aperture, but only by the pores of the skin; so that the hocco, as well as the *agami*, is a bird which may be considered as a ventriloquist.

These different sounds which the hocco utters, depend doubtless upon the conformation of the trachea, which differs in some respects from that of other birds. Composed of a very firm substance, with solid rings in proportion, this artery proceeds in a straight direction as far as the lower part of the neck; there it loses its cylindrical form, and becomes larger and flattened. It then makes a circumvolution round itself, of about an inch, and enters again before and behind, above the crest of the sternum; its two bronchias enter into the wings. These observations were made upon two male hoccas, and there is every probability that this particular conformation does not exist in the females.

Like almost all the birds which inhabit the same climates, the hoccas have no fixed time for the laying of their eggs. It is, however, more frequently during the rainy season, which lasts for seven or eight months at Guiana,