

than during the dry, that they occupy themselves in the propagation of their species. They generally brood only once a year. They employ but little industry in the formation of their nests; they place, upon sufficiently strong branches, some dry twigs, among which they interweave, very inartificially, slips of grass; they cover the bottom with leaves, and the female deposits there two white eggs, nearly of the same size and of the same form as those of the Indian hen, but the shell of which is thicker. The number of these eggs varies according to the age of the female, but they are never less than two nor more than six.

Though I suspect the accounts of Fernandez, and, after him, of Nieremberg, respecting the extraordinary familiarity of certain hoccas, to be exaggerated, yet, it is certain, that no bird can have a greater aptitude to a state of domesticity. They are very common in the streets of the town of Cayenne; nothing frightens them, they enter into all the houses, and leap on the tables for something to eat. Though they run at liberty through the town, and even beyond it, yet they know how to distinguish the houses in which they are kept. From their love of elevated situations, they perch, to pass the night, on the highest  
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