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# THE IBIS.

No. I. JANUARY 1859.

I.—*On the Ornithology of Central America.* Part I. By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER and OSBERT SALVIN.

ALTHOUGH the birds of Central America are tolerably well known to us from the numerous travellers and collectors who have explored different parts of its shores, and supplied the museums of Europe with specimens, no writer has as yet attempted anything like a general account of the ornithology of this remarkable country, where winter visitants from the northern portion of the New World mix with others of peculiar form and splendid plumage, which recall to one's memory the most brilliant ornaments of the tropical bird-faunas of Brazil and Cayenne. A considerable number of specimens having been lately transmitted to England from Guatemala—perhaps the most attractive part of the great Central-American isthmus,—and one of the writers of the present article having himself passed some months in that country, and collected specimens and made notes upon its birds, it has been thought that the opportunity should not be lost of attempting a sketch of the ornithology of this region, in order to form a foundation upon which a more complete work may hereafter be established. It is proposed, therefore, in the present paper, to give a list, with incidental remarks, of all the species of birds which are certainly known to inhabit Central America, from the confines of Mexico to where the Isthmus again contracts in the republic of Honduras, and the route of the proposed Honduras Interoceanic Railway gives a convenient southern boundary.

The authorities at present existing on the ornithology of this country are but few. The birds of Southern Mexico are known to us through the researches of MM. Sallé, Botteri, and Boucard\* ; but none of these explorers have yet descended so far south as the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Yucatan, which lies within our limits, was visited by Dr. Cabot, who accompanied Mr. Stephens in his second journey. Several interesting papers† on the birds of this country were the results of this expedition, but unfortunately no accurate list of the species obtained was ever published. The only account of the birds of Guatemala that we are acquainted with, besides some scattered notices of new species by Dr. Hartlaub, the Vicomte Du Bus‡, and others, is the late Prince Bonaparte's article in the P. Z. S. 1837, "On the birds collected by Col. Velasquez de Leon during a fortnight's scientific tour in Guatemala." He gives here the names of thirty-nine species, some of which were then new. But several well-known collectors have visited parts of this country, and many of their specimens are now in the Derby Museum at Liverpool and our National Collection. M. Delattre passed some time at Coban, in the Vera Paz, during one of his 'voyages,' and has given us an account § of the habits of that magnificent bird the *Pharomacrus paradiseus*, which he first observed near that city. The late Mr. Dyson (whose chief object was, I believe, to procure the Ocellated Turkey) collected also on the Bay of Honduras and obtained many fine specimens. The late Señor Don José Constancia, of La Antigua Guatemala, was a correspondent of the late Mr. H. E. Strickland, and sent him several collections of birds, some of which were figured in Sir William

\* See "Catalogue of the Birds collected by M. Auguste Sallé in Southern Mexico," by P. L. Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 283; and other papers, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 81, p. 201, p. 210, and p. 226; and 1858, p. 95 and p. 294.

† See Boston Journal of Natural History, iv. p. 246, and p. 460, v. p. 90, and p. 416; and the Appendix to vol. ii. of Stephens's 'Travels in Yucatan.'

‡ See "Description de sept oiseaux de Guatemala, par le Dr. G. Hartlaub," Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 215; "Sur une nouvelle espèce du genre *Melanotis*," ibid. 1852, p. 460: Du Bus in Bull. Acad. Bruxelles and 'Esquisses Ornithologiques.'

§ See Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 163.

Jardine's 'Contributions to Ornithology\*.' Mr. Joseph Leyland of Liverpool has also recently visited the Bay of Honduras for the purpose of collecting objects of natural history. Mr. Thomas Moore, of the Derby Museum, has drawn up an account of the Mammals and Birds collected by Mr. Leyland, and has kindly allowed us the use of his MS., which we hope to see published shortly. Our southern limit, the line of the proposed railway through Honduras, was traversed in 1858 by Capt. G. C. Taylor. A list of the birds obtained by him will be found in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society † for the same year, and is our only authority upon the birds of this district. Farther southwards, the ornithology of Nicaragua has been partly explored by Delattre ‡ and Sallé §, and that of Veragua by Mr. Bridges ||, M. Warscewicz ¶, and the surveying expedition under the command of Capt. Kellett. The specimens obtained from the latter source are now in the British Museum. We believe we have now mentioned nearly, if not quite, all the authorities on Central American ornithology \*\*. Of such of these as relate to the territory within our limits we have of course availed ourselves. But we have derived most assistance from the series of bird-skins which have been lately transmitted by George Ure Skinner, Esq., from Guatemala. This gentleman, well known for the splendid Orchids †† which he has

\* See Contr. Orn. pl. 17, pl. 33, &c. Some of the duplicates from these collections passed into my possession.—P. L. S.

† See P. Z. S. 1858, p. 356.

‡ See "Note sur les collections rapportées en 1853 par M. A. Delattre de son voyage en Californie et dans le Nicaragua par Charles Lucien, Prince Bonaparte," Compt. Rend. xxxvii. and xxxviii., and also separately printed.

§ The two beautiful Mammals figured in P. Z. S. 1848, pl. vi. and vii., *Mycetes palliatus*, Gray, and *Sciurus dorsalis*, Gray, were obtained by M. Sallé during this journey near Grenada in Nicaragua, and not at Caraccas, as there stated.

|| See P. Z. S. 1856, p. 138.

¶ See P. Z. S. 1850, p. 162.

\*\* Whether Dr. Wagner and Dr. Scherzer, who have recently travelled through the Central American republics, collected any birds, we do not know, but we believe they have not yet published anything on the subject.

†† *Cattleya skinneri*, *Barkeria skinneri*, *Lycaste skinneri*, *Odontoglossum grande*, and many other magnificent species.

imported from the same country, has lately employed collectors\* in several parts of the republic, more particularly at Salamà, Cajabon, and other places in the Vera Paz; and it is to his exertions that science is indebted for the knowledge of the appropriately named *Cotinga amabilis*, for additional specimens of the wonderful *Oreophasis derbianus*, and many other ornithological rarities.

Salvin, from whose personal observation the greater part of our notes are derived, reached Belize in the middle of December 1857. After a few days' stay, he proceeded down the coast to Ysabal, on the inland lake called the Golfo Dulce, and thence by easy stages up to the city of Guatemala, collecting by the way when the opportunity presented itself. Dueñas, about thirty miles south of the capital, situated nearly between the two volcanos of Agua and Fuego, was his head-quarters during his six months' residence in the country; but he also made two excursions towards the Pacific coast, and one to the lake of Atitlan in the Altos of Guatemala. Leaving the country towards the end of June last, he returned home by the Pacific coasting steamer and Panama.

The part of Central America which we are now speaking of, being in fact a continuation of Mexico, partakes of much of the same general physical contour, and embraces three distinct faunas. The first is that of the Atlantic coast-region, or *tierra caliente*, bordering the Caribbean Sea. This varies greatly in breadth, extending nearly over the whole of the northern portion of the peninsula of Yucatan, but in other places being confined within narrow limits. It may be held to embrace all the eastern slope of the watershed up to the height of 4000 feet. Corresponding to this on the other side is the Pacific coast-region, also a *tierra caliente*, extending to about the same height above the sea-level. It differs, however, in being of a uniform narrow width of not more than 50 miles, and the descent to it from the table-land is abrupt, and is well defined by the volcanic chain which borders the western limit of the table-land. In these two coast-regions occur nearly all the tropical forms which

\* We regret to hear by late accounts of the death of one of the most active of these—Rivera Paz, whose services it will be difficult to replace.

are represented in the ornithology of Guatemala, but we believe that the two faunas are nevertheless quite distinct, and that the same species seldom occurs in both districts. We have not yet sufficient information to enable us to work out this subject; but we may remark, that *Meleagris ocellata*, *Cotinga amabilis*, *Ramphocelus passerinii*, *Anabates rubiginosus*, and *Galbula melanogenia*, may all be considered as species peculiar to the Atlantic coast-region; while *Buteo ghiesbreghti*, *Ara aracanga*, and others, appear to be confined to the Pacific.

Between the two coast-regions, embracing the whole interior of the country, is the central region or table-land of Guatemala, varying in altitude from 4000 to 8000 feet, out of which rises a chain of volcanic peaks, which in some cases attain a height of nearly 14,000 feet. There are many forms peculiar to this district. In the first place, it is the winter residence of the greater part of the northern migrants, which abound here from October to the end of March. Our list will show a large number of these birds. Of the many residents peculiar to this region, we may mention as characteristic examples, *Oreophasis derbianus*, *Pharomacrus paradiseus*, *Pyrgisoma biarcuatum*, *Turdus grayii* and *T. rufitorques*, *Panyptila melanoleuca*, *Corvus cacalotl* (?), and *Erismatura rubida*. The province of Vera Paz is partly in the Central and partly in the Atlantic region, and the species collected there may consequently belong to either fauna.

Species marked (N.A.) in the following list are such as are included in the fauna of the U.S., and, with a few exceptions, may be taken to be winter visitants to Guatemala.

## Ordo I. INSESSORES.

### Tribus I. PASSERES\*.

#### Subtribus I. *Oscines*.

#### Fam. I. TURDIDÆ.

##### 1. TURDUS GRAYII, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 118.

This species is resident throughout the higher districts, but is not found lower down than at an elevation of 4000 ft. It

\* We agree very much with Mr. Wallace's views (Ann. Nat. Hist. 1856), who separates the great mass of *Insessores* into three groups—*Passeres*,

breeds commonly at Dueñas in the months of April and May, making a nest of roots, fibres and small twigs with a lining of dry grass and fine roots. The eggs, three in number, are more or less covered with spots and blotches of red-brown on a ground of pale bluish green, the spots being more concentrated at the obtuse end. They measure 1 inch  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines in axis and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lines in diameter.

The song of *Turdus grayii* is very rich and of considerable compass, quite rivalling any of its congeners. It is a favourite cage-bird with the Spaniards, and enjoys the name of 'Sinzonte' in common with all other thrushes.

2. *TURDUS LEUCAUCHEN*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858 (Nov. 9th).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In the collections of P. L. S. and Mr. Gould.

3. *TURDUS INFUSCATUS*, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1848, p. 3.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Sir William Jardine's collection.

4. *TURDUS RUFITORQUES*, Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 214; Du Bus, Esquisses Orn. pl. 19 et 20.

It is only in the higher parts of the Cordillera that this species is found; it occurs on the northern spur of the Volcan de Fuego, near a small village called Calderas, at an elevation of about 7000 feet. At Las Gordinas, in the Altos of Guatemala, and about the lofty hills that surround the Lake of Atitlan, it is tolerably numerous. In short, wherever the evergreen oaks attain their maximum growth, *T. rufitorques* may be found.

5. *TURDUS MUSTELINUS* (Gm.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

6. *TURDUS SWAINSONI* (Cab.). *Turdus olivaceus*, Brewer, Baird's Rep. p. 216. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

7. *CATHARUS MELPOMENE* (Cab.), Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 97.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

*Fissirostres*, and *Scansores*. The Passeres we divide, according to Müller's views, into *Oscines* and *Tracheophonæ*, the latter group passing on towards the *Fissirostres*.



8. *MALACOCICHLA DRYAS*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1854, p. 285, pl. 97.

The Department of the Vera Paz alone seems to produce this species, of which examples were first transmitted by Mr. Skinner. (Mus. Brit.)

9. *MALACOCICHLA MEXICANA*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xliii. p. 998.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Also in the Derby Museum and the collection of the Philadelphian Academy, from Coban (Delattre).

10. *MELANOPTILA GLABRIROSTRIS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 275.

Omoa, Honduras (Leyland). Mus. Brit., Derby, et P. L. S.

11. *GALEOSOPTES CAROLINENSIS* (Linn.). *Turdus felivox*, Vieill. (N. A.)

At Belize this bird occurs, but sparingly; it is also found in Guatemala, but is probably restricted in its range to the northern coast.

12. *MELANOTIS HYPOLEUCUS*, Hartlaub, Rev. Zool. 1852, p. 460.

About Dueñas this Mock-bird is very common, frequenting the thick bushes and underwood. It is shy, and eludes observation by skulking rather than by open flight. Its song in February is short and disjointed, but towards the breeding season it improves in quality. The food of *M. hypoleucus* consists chiefly of berries; but, as it is also often to be observed searching about the roots of trees and amongst dead leaves, insects and their larvæ may probably be included. This species forms a very slight nest, using small twigs for its construction with a lining of fine roots. The structure is usually placed in a thick bush about 9 or 10 feet from the ground. The eggs are laid about the end of May, and are three in number, rather elongated in form and uniform greenish blue in colour. They measure, axis 1 inch 2 lines, diam.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

13. *MIMUS GRACILIS*, Cab. Mus. Hein. p. 83.

This bird seems to have a universal range over the whole Republic, including British Honduras. Skins from Belize and

from Salamá, in the Department of Vera Paz, present no differences. It is a favourite cage-bird with the Spaniards. Its food is principally berries.

Fam. II. SYLVIIDÆ.

14. SIALIA WILSONI (Sw.). (N. A.)

“*El azulejo.*” It is only in the more open districts of the elevated region that this Blue-bird is found; in such localities, however, it is numerous.

Some Guatemala skins of this species are very pale below, on the belly quite white. Others are intermediate between this and the deep red of the more northern bird. We have not observed the same variation in Mexican examples.

15. REGULUS CALENDULA (Linn.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

Fam. III. TROGLODYTIDÆ.

16. CAMPYLORHYNCHUS CAPISTRATUS (Less.). *Picolaptes capistratus*, Des Mur, Icon. Orn. pl. 63.

Often transmitted from Belize and Honduras.

17. THRYOTHORUS RUFALBUS, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1845, p. 337; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 140.

This Wren is tolerably numerous and a resident at Dueñas. It is to be found in moderately thick forest, but seems rather to seek single trees of dense foliage than thickly grown underwood.

18. CISTOTHORUS ELEGANS, sp. nov.

Suprà murino-brunneus, nigro transversim obsolete fasciatus; capitis antici et interscapulii plumis nigris, striâ mediali distinctâ sordidè albâ ornatis: alis et caudâ fasciis alternis pallidè brunneis et nigris extus notatis: primariorum pogoniis internis pallidè nigricanti-cinereis: caudâ nigrâ; rectricum lateralium pogonio externo et pogonii interni parte terminali pallidè fulvis, maculis quadratis nigris variegatis: subtùs ochraceo-albidus, unicolor, gutture dilutiore, ferè albo, lateribus et crisso paulò saturatoribus: rostro superiore fusco, inferiore cum pedibus pallidè flavidis: long. tota 4.30, alæ 1.75, caudæ 1.75, rostri à rictu .6, tarsi .7.

A single specimen only was shot by Salvin amongst the rushes on the banks of the lake of Dueñas, where it appeared to be scarce.

This apparently hitherto unnoticed Wren rather resembles the N. American *Cistothorus brevirostris*, but is much larger in dimensions and more distinctly marked.

19. TROGLODYTES AEDON (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Undoubted examples of this bird have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner; but it is uncertain whether this agrees with the common wren at Dueñas, specimens of which were not collected.

Fam. IV. ALAUDIDÆ.

20. ANTHUS LUDOVICIANUS (Gm.). (N. A.)

A small flock of about twelve were seen in the open land near Dueñas, about the middle of February. They were apparently on passage, and did not remain.

Fam. V. PARIDÆ.

Subfam. POLIOPTILINÆ.

21. POLIOPTILA MEXICANA (Bp.). *Culicivora mexicana*, Bp.  
Consp. p. 316?

This bird is not uncommon at Dueñas, frequenting low bushy trees. It seems to extend its range through a great variety of temperature, as a single individual was seen in the month of February 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, on the summit of the Volcan de Agua. It does not remain to breed.

Specimens from Guatemala agree with those collected by M. Sallé in the State of Vera Cruz. They are much more cinereous than *P. cærulea* of N. America, and have no appearance of a frontal band in either sex. It is not yet certain whether they are anything more than *P. cærulea* in winter plumage.

Fam. VI. MNIOTILTIDÆ.

Subfam. SIURINÆ.

22. SIURUS AURICAPILLUS (Gm.). (N. A.)

Numerous examples of this species have been forwarded

through Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz. It occurs but very sparingly at Dueñas in the month of February.

23. SIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS (Gm.). (N. A.)

Just outside the town of Belize, and beyond that part called Yarborough, this is a very common bird in the month of December.

Subfam. MNIOTILTINÆ.

24. MINOTILTA VARIA (Linn.). (N. A.)

At Belize, as well as throughout the more elevated portions of Guatemala, this bird is found; it seems to be pretty equally and generally spread over the whole country. It is migratory at Dueñas, leaving that district in the spring.

25. PARULA AMERICANA (Linn.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

26. PARULA SUPERCILIOSA (Hartl.). *Conirostrum superciliosum*, Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 215; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 299.

Originally described from Guatemalan specimens by Dr. Hartlaub.

27. GEOTILYPIS TRICHAS (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is perhaps the commonest species of the *Mniotiltidæ* about Dueñas, but like all the rest is migratory. It is usually to be found in the neighbourhood of water, and frequents the reeds surrounding the Lake of Dueñas, and the bushes on the banks of its outlet to the River Guacalate.

28. GEOTILYPIS MACGILLIVRAYII (Aud.). *Sylvia tolmiaei*, Townsend. (N. A.)

Throughout the district lying between the Volcanos of Agua and Fuego this species is by no means uncommon, frequenting the outskirts of the forest and the edges of the clearings. The distinctive marks over and under the eye, by which *G. macgillivrayii* is distinguished from *G. philadelphica*, are very apparent in a living or freshly-shot bird.

29. OPORORNIS FORMOSA (Wilson); Baird, Report, p. 247. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

30. HELMITHERUS VERMIVORUS (Lath.); Baird, Rep. p. 252.  
(N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

31. HELMINTHOPHAGA PINUS (Linn.); Baird, Rep. p. 254.  
(N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

32. DENDROICA VIRENS (Gm.). (N. A.)

This species occurs but sparingly at Dueñas, where it is a winter visitant. Specimens also have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner and by Señor Constancia.

33. DENDROICA TOWNSENDII, Baird, Rep. p. 269. (N. A.)

*D. townsendii* is also a winter visitant at Dueñas, and though more frequently met with than *D. virens*, is by no means abundant.

34. DENDROICA CORONATA (Linn.). (N. A.)

This bird frequents the more open districts about Dueñas, preferring scattered bushes to the denser underwood. It is an abundant species, especially between Dueñas and the village of Alotenango, in the winter season.

35. DENDROICA BLACKBURNIÆ (Gm.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner and Señor Constancia.

36. DENDROICA CASTANEA (Wilson). (N. A.)

37. DENDROICA ÆSTIVA (Gm.). (N. A.)

38. DENDROICA MACULOSA (Gm.). (N. A.)

Specimens of all these three Wood-warblers have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

39. MYIODIOCTES MITRATUS (Gm.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Also collected by Capt. Taylor near Comayagua (see P. Z. S. 1858, p. 358).

40. MYIODIOCTES PUSILLUS (Wils.). (N. A.)

A common migratory species at Dueñas, where it is only found during the winter season.

41. MYIODIOCTES CANADENSIS (Linn.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 42. SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA (Linn.). (N. A.)

At Belize this species occurs in the winter.

## 43. SETOPHAGA PICTA (Sw.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

44. SETOPHAGA FLAMMEA, Kaup, P. Z. S. 1851, p. 49. *S. intermedia*, Hartl. R. Z. 1852, p. 5.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner and Señor Constancia. Distinct from the Mexican *Setophaga miniata*. The specimen from Guatemala described in Baird's Report (p. 299) without doubt belongs here.

## Fam. VII. VIREONIDÆ.

## Subfam. ICTERIINÆ.

## 45. ICTERIA VELASQUEZI, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 117.

We rather doubt the distinctness of the southern specimens of *Icteria* from those of the United States (*I. polyglotta* and *I. longicauda*), and believe they may be referred to the winter dress of the latter.

## Subfam. VIREONINÆ.

46. VIREOSYLVA OLIVACEA (Linn.); Baird's Rep. p. 329. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

47. VIREOSYLVA FLAVO-VIRIDIS, Cassin, Pr. Ac. Sc. Philad. (1851) v. p. 152, pl. 11; Baird, Rep. p. 332.

In coll. P. L. S., received from Don José Constancia.

48. VIREOSYLVA PHILADELPHICA, Cassin, Pr. Ac. Sc. Philad. v. p. 153. pl. 10. fig. 2; Baird, Rep. p. 335. (N. A.)

In coll. O. S. received from Mr. Skinner.

49. VIREO FLAVIFRONS, Vieill.; Baird, Rep. p. 341. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

50. VIREOLANIUS PULCHELLUS, sp. nov.

Lætè psittaceo-viridis: pileo cyaneo: gutture flavo: formâ et staturâ *Vireolanii icterophrys*.

A single specimen of this beautiful bird is in the British Museum, received from Mr. Skinner through Mr. Gould.

51. *CYCLORHIS FLAVIVENTRIS*, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1842, p. 133.  
Transmitted by Señor Constancia and Mr. Skinner.

## Fam. VIII. HIRUNDINIDÆ.

52. *HIRUNDO HORREORUM*, Barton ; Baird, Rep. p. 308. (N. A.)  
This species, or one very closely resembling it, was observed by Salvin near Dueñas, in April 1858.

53. *PETROCHELIDON BICOLOR* (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Mr. Gould's collection.

54. *PETROCHELIDON THALASSINA*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 365.  
(N. A.)

Early in March great numbers of this beautiful species occur near Dueñas, where they remain but for a short time ; during that time they are to be found flying over the open land to the south of the lake.

55. *ATTICORA PILEATA*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 355.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

56. *COTYLE SERRIPENNIS* (Aud.). (N. A.)

In a gorge on the River Guacalate this Swallow is especially abundant, but it is also found elsewhere about Dueñas. Greater numbers appear in the winter months, but a few are to be found all through the year.

57. *PROGNE DOMINICENSIS* (Gm.).

A skin, transmitted by Mr. Skinner, seems to agree most nearly with this species.

## Fam. IX. AMPELIDÆ.

## Subfam. AMPELINÆ.

58. *AMPELIS CEDRORUM*, Vieill. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner, and said to be an occasionally abundant winter visitant. *Bombycilla mariæ*, Coinde (Grenoble, 1857), seems to be nothing more than this bird.

## Subfam. PTILOGONYDINÆ.

59. *PTILOGONYS CINEREUS* (Sw.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia to the late Mr. Strickland ; and also in Mr. Skinner's series.

## 60. MYIADESTES OBSCURUS, Lafr.

Every wooded ravine in the elevated region resounds with the strange song of this bird, which, from its remarkable character, has procured for the songster the title of '*Guarda barranca.*' The notes have a metallic ringing in their tone, and though peculiar, are extremely soft in their cadence. It is a bird that, of all others, when once heard and known, associates itself with all that is beautiful in the grand mountain-scenery of Guatemala. Deservedly this is a favourite cage-bird with the Spanish ladies, and few houses are without it.

## Fam. X. CÆREBIDÆ.

## 61. CÆREBA LUCIDA, sp. nov.

Affinis *C. cæruleæ* ex Cayennâ, et rostro simillimo, sed colore cæruleo-viridescente, gulâ media usque ad pectus nigrâ, alis et tarsis longioribus distinguendâ. Long. alæ 2·4.

Numerous specimens transmitted by Mr. Skinner seem to agree in the above distinctions.

## 62. CHLOROPHANES ATRICAPILLA, Vieill. ?

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. We have not yet had an opportunity of comparing this with southern specimens.

63. DIGLOSSA BARITULA, Wagl. Isis, 1832, p. 281 ; Gray & Mitch. Gen. pl. 42.

Transmitted by Señor Constancia and Mr. Skinner.

## Fam. XI. TANAGRIDÆ.

64. SALTATOR ATRICEPS (Less.). *Arremon giganteus*, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 117 ; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 358. *Pyrrhula raptor*, Cabot.

Comayagua, Honduras (*Taylor*): common in Yucatan (*Cabot*).

## 65. SALTATOR MAGNOIDES (Lafr.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 66. SALTATOR GRANDIS (Licht.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 72.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner in the state described as adult. Specimens procured at Dueñas are all in the stage described by Lafresnaye as *S. icterophrys*, and may perhaps, after all, turn out to be distinct. It is there not uncommon, frequenting the



thick bushy underwood. Its food consists principally of small fruits and berries.

67. BUARREMON BRUNNEINUCHUS (Lafr.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

68. BUARREMON CHRYSOPOGON, Bp., Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 86.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner, showing that the locality given in the Paris Museum (California) is wrong.

69. LANIO AURANTIUS, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1846, p. 204.

Procured in Honduras by Dyson. Mus. Brit.

70. PHÆNICOTHRAUPIS RUBICOIDES (Lafr.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia and by Mr. Skinner.

71. PYRANGA ÆSTIVA (Gm.). (N.A.)

This bird enjoys an almost universal range throughout the Republic of Guatemala. It occurs in December, at the mouth of the Rio Dulce, in the pine-ridges near Quirigua, and in fact along the whole road from the port of Izabal to the city of Guatemala, a distance of about 80 leagues. At Dueñas *P. æstiva* is common, occurring during the winter months.

72. PYRANGA HEPATICA (Sw.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 24.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

73. PYRANGA LUDOVICIANA (Wilson). (N. A.)

*P. ludoviciana* occurs near the village of Alotenango, situated between the Volcanos of Agua and Fuego, at an elevation of about 5000 feet, but is anything but a common species. Specimens also have been sent from the Vera Paz.

74. PYRANGA ERYTHROMELÆNA (Licht.).

*P. erythromelæna* is common on the Pacific coast in the month of March, and occurs abundantly near Santa Lucia, a village distant about 12 leagues from Escuintla. It is also found in the Vera Paz.

75. PYRANGA ROSEOGULARIS, Cabot, Bost. Journ. Nat. Hist. v. p. 416; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 6.

Discovered in Yucatan by Dr. Cabot.

76. *RAMPHOCELUS PASSEBINII*, Bp.; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 130.

It is on the eastern sea-board, and not on the southern slope of the Cordillera, that *R. passerinii* occurs. At Izabal, the port of Guatemala, on the Gulf of Dulce, it is tolerably numerous. Skins also have been sent from Cajabon in the Department of the Vera Paz. This bird is readily distinguishable from the New Grenadian *R. flammigerus* by its smaller size.

77. *RAMPHOCELUS SANGUINOLENTUS* (Less.), Cent. Zool. pl. 39.

This magnificent species is found on the hot sea-board of the Bay of Honduras. Mr. Dyson obtained specimens on the Chamalican River.

78. *TANAGRA DIACONUS* (Less.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia.

79. *TANAGRA VICARIUS* (Less.), Cent. Zool. pl. 68 (1830).  
*Tanagra abbas*, Licht. Preis-Verz. 1831.

This Tanager is resident, but not very numerous, at Dueñas. It has also been sent from the Vera Paz. In the month of May it builds a compact nest, composed of small twigs with a little wool, and lined with a few pieces of dead flag, fine roots, and horsehair. The nest, usually in a cypress or other thick-growing tree, is placed on the upper part of a branch, and about ten or twelve feet from the ground. The eggs, three in number, are spotted or blotched with three shades of reddish brown on a pale bluish-grey ground. Axis  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lines, diam. 8 lines.

80. *CALLISTE LARVATA*, Du Bus.

Procured by the late Mr. Dyson during his voyage up the Chamalican River, but appears to be scarce.

81. *EUPHONIA ELEGANTISSIMA* (Bp.). *Pipra elegantissima*, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 112.

Procured in Guatemala by Col. Velasquez de Leon.

82. *EUPHONIA AFFINIS* (Less.), Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 274.

83. *EUPHONIA HIRUNDINACEA*, Bp. P. L. S. 1837, p. 117; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 278.

The specimens whence Prince Bonaparte took his description were procured in Guatemala by Col. Velasquez de Leon: Señor Constancia has also transmitted examples.

84. *EUPHONIA GOULDI*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 66. pl. 124.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

85. *CHLOROPHONIA OCCIPITALIS* (Du Bus), Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 270.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Sir William Jardine's collection.

#### Fam. XII. FRINGILLIDÆ.

86. *HEDYMELES LUDOVICIANUS*, Linn. (N. A.)

It would appear that this bird is abundant in the Vera Paz, as numbers of skins have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. It does not occur at Dueñas, but is a common cage-bird in the city of Guatemala.

87. *SPERMOPHILA MORELETII*, Bp. Consp. p. 497.

This bird was originally discovered near the lake of Peten by M. Morelet, and was described from his specimens in the Paris Museum by Prince Bonaparte. It is not an uncommon species about Dueñas, where it is generally to be found amongst the tall reeds on the edge of the lake. It occurs also at Belize.

88. *VOLATINIA JACARINA* (Linn.), Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 305.

Transmitted by Señor Constancia. Whether this is the true *jacarina* must remain doubtful, until the several species confounded under that name are worked out. The present bird has white feathers on the bend of the wings above, and the undercoverts black.

89. *CYANOSPIZA CIRIS* (Linn.); Baird, Rep. p. 503. (N. A.)

Though of rather unfrequent occurrence at Dueñas, this bird is abundant on the Pacific coast, evidently preferring the hot to the more temperate districts. Capt. Taylor procured a specimen at Comayagua, in the centre of the State of Honduras. See P. Z. S. 1857, p. 358.

90. *CYANOSPIZA VERSICOLOR* (Bp.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Mus. Brit.

91. *CYANOSPIZA CYANEA* (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a winter visitant at Dueñas, where it cannot be said to be abundant. Mr. Skinner having transmitted many skins, it may be supposed to occur more frequently in other parts.

92. *ZONOTRICHIA PILEATA* (Bodd.). *Z. matutina*, auct.

Quite an abundant species and resident at Dueñas and on the plain of Antigua Guatemala, where it may constantly be seen about the 'nopal' (*Cactus cochinellifer*) in the cochineal plantations, and the mud walls surrounding them. The bird builds a nest outwardly of strong grass roots and small twigs, and inwardly of horse-hair. The eggs, two in number, are spotted or blotched with deep red on a pale bluish-green ground. They measure, axis 10 lines, diam.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

93. *PASSERCULUS LINCOLNI* (Aud.).

This species was found about the reeds on the margin of the lake in February, but it is not common.

94. *PYRGISOMA BIARCUATUM* (Lafr.), *Voy. Venus*, Ois. pl. 6; *Bp. Consp.* p. 486. *Atlapetes rubricatus*, *Cab. Mus. Hein.* p. 140.

This species is not uncommon about Dueñas, and is resident. It frequents the thick underwood, but is generally found near the more open and cultivated districts. It builds a very deep nest composed of dead leaves and sticks, with a few horse-hairs inside. This structure is placed in a low bush about 5 or 6 feet from the ground. The eggs, two in number, are closely but distinctly spotted with red on a ground of creamy white; they measure, axis 1 inch, diam.  $8\frac{1}{4}$  lines. It seems very doubtful whether the genus *Pyrgisoma* can be held to be really distinct from Wagler's *Atlapetes*.

95. *COTURNICULUS PASSERINUS* (Wilson). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Señor Constancia and Mr. Skinner.

96. *HÆMOPHILA RUFESCENS* (Sw.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. *Mus. Brit.*

97. *EUSPIZA AMERICANA* (Gm.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

98. COCCOTHRAUSTES ABEILLII (Less.). *Guiraca abeillii*, Less. Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 41.

Mr. Gould has received an example of this beautiful bird from Mr. Skinner.

99. CHRYSOMITRIS MEXICANA (Sw.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia to Mr. Strickland. In coll. P. L. S.

### Fam. XIII. ICTERIDÆ.

#### Subfam. AGELÆINÆ.

100. AGELÆUS PHÆNICEUS (Linn.).

The females of this species congregate in large flocks near the lake of Dueñas, feeding about the swampy grass on the edge of the water. The males are always separate, and generally to be seen on a single twig of a bush or low tree, uttering their monotonous cry. At Dueñas they are resident all the year round, and build in the reeds that surround the lake, deferring the period of incubation till the month of June.

101. STURNELLA HIPPOCREPIS, Wagl. (?)

Not only at Dueñas, where it is common about the open land, but through all the open plains of the higher region, is this bird found. At the former place it is most abundant in the winter months, but some few pairs remain to breed.

#### Subfam. ICTERINÆ.

102. CACICUS MONTEZUMÆ (Less.) Cent. Zool. pl. 7.

Procured by Capt. Taylor at Taulevi, Honduras: seen once at Iguana near Izabal, in the Atlantic coast-region.

103. OCYALUS WAGLERI, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of B. pl. 8.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon, Vera Paz.

104. CASSICULUS PREVOSTI (Less.).

Occurs sparingly at Dueñas. Is generally seen in the thick trees, where it seems to employ itself in breaking the dead twigs, and so attracts attention by the sound.

105. ICTERUS GULARIS (Wagl.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz, and collected

by Capt. Taylor near Comayagua, Honduras (P. Z. S. 1858, p. 358).

106. *ICTERUS PECTORALIS* (Wagl.).

Also from the Vera Paz (Mr. Skinner).

107. *ICTERUS GIRAUDI*, Cassin.

Confer P. Z. S. 1857, p. 227. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

108. *ICTERUS CUCULLATUS* (Sw.).

A single specimen, apparently referable to this species, was shot in December at Belize, where it is known by the name of the "Banana-bird," a title doubtless common to all the genus. It differs from Mexican specimens in having the black extending above and behind the eye, and it will be necessary to make further comparisons.

109. *ICTERUS WAGLERI*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 7.

This is the only one of the genus found about Dueñas, where it is not uncommon.

110. *ICTERUS PROSTHEMELAS*, Strickland, Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 120. pl. 62.

A close ally of the preceding. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

111. *ICTERUS BALTIMORENSIS* (Linn.), Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 116.

Transmitted from the Vera Paz by Mr. Skinner.

112. *ICTERUS AFFINIS*, Lawrence.

This small variety of the Orchard Oriole has been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Prof. Baird does not consider it truly distinct from *I. spurius*.

113. *QUISCALUS MACRURUS* (Sw.).

This species plays the part of the sparrow in Guatemala, and seeks the abode of man as that familiar bird does in Europe. It frequents the larger towns as well as the villages. Its favourite resort is the stable, where it scratches for its food among the ordure of the horses; sometimes perching on the backs of these animals and ridding them of their ticks; and now and then flying on to the manger and picking up stray grains of maize. It breeds in societies at Dueñas, selecting the willows that grow near the lake and the reeds on its banks for its nests.

The breeding season seems to extend over some length of time, and in the month of May young birds and fresh eggs may be found in nests in the same tree. On the coast, young ones nearly capable of flying were seen in the early part of March. The nest is usually made of grass and placed among thin upright branches, the grass being entwined round each twig to support the structure. The number of eggs seldom exceeds three; they are curiously marked with black spots on a bluish-grey ground. They measure, axis 1 inch 4 lines, diam.  $11\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

Capt. Taylor procured specimens of this bird near Comayagua.

#### Fam. XIV. CORVIDÆ.

##### Subfam. CORVINÆ.

114. *CORVUS CACALOTL*, Wagler: Bp. P.Z.S. 1837, p. 115?

A true Raven occurs tolerably abundantly about the plains of Chimaltenango, at an altitude of 6000 feet. It sometimes descends to Dueñas, but rarely. It was also once observed near the village of Estansuelas, on the entrance to the plain of Zacapa. Specimens have not yet been obtained, and it is only doubtfully referred, following Bonaparte, to *Corvus cacalotl* of Wagler.

115. *CYANOCITTA MELANOCYANEA*, Hartlaub, Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 215; Bp. Consp. p. 378.

Throughout the wooded parts near Dueñas this Jay is common, and the only species. It is resident all the year, breeding in the months of April and May. It makes a loose nest of small twigs, and lays four eggs of a brick-red colour, spotted and blotched with a darker shade of the same. They measure, axis 1 inch 3 lines, diam.  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

116. *CYANOCITTA ORNATA* (Less.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner's collector from Cajabon. Also extends to Honduras.

117. *CYANOCITTA PUMILO*, Strickl. Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 122, pl. 33; Bp. Consp. p. 378.

Originally described from specimens transmitted by Señor Constancia. It is perfectly distinct from the Mexican *Cyanocitta nana*. See P. Z. S. 1857, p. 204.

118. *CYANOCORAX GUATEMALENSIS*, Bp. Consp. p. 380.  
Also from Cajabon and Honduras.

119. *CYANURUS CORONATUS* (Sw.). *Garrulus coronatus*, Sw.  
Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 437; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

Transmitted by Señor Constancia. Observed in the barranco of Los Chocoyos, in the Altos of Guatemala.

120. *CALOCITTA FORMOSA* (Sw.). *Cyanurus bullockii*, Bp.  
P. Z. S. 1837, p. 115.

Found abundantly on both the Atlantic and Pacific coast-regions, but never ascends to the central region.

121. *PSILORHINUS MORIO* (Wagl.).

Occurs on the eastern coast between Quirigua and Iguana, on the road to Guatemala.

[To be continued.]

II.—*Notes on Birds observed in Southern Palestine, in the months of March and April 1858.* By the Rev. H. B. TRISTRAM, F.L.S.

THERE is, perhaps, no country frequented by travellers whose Fauna is so little known as that of Palestine. This may arise partly from the more absorbing associations of sacred and historical interest, which are of themselves more than sufficient to occupy the attention during the short period usually allotted to a tour in Palestine; and partly from the extreme difficulty and even danger of pursuing researches in a region so unsettled and lawless.

The following list makes no pretension to anything like completeness, as ornithology was by no means the principal object of the writer's expedition, and the districts most abounding in birds, as the Lebanon, the upper waters of the Jordan, and the wooded regions of Northern Palestine, were not visited by him at all.

It is put forth rather in the hope that the fact of so many rare and interesting species having been observed in so short a time, may induce succeeding travellers to endeavour to supply





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# THE IBIS.

No. II. APRIL 1859.

XII.—*On the Ornithology of Central America.* Part II. By  
PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER and OSBERT SALVIN.

[Continued from p. 22.]

(Plates IV. and V.)

Subtribus II. *Tracheophonæ.*

Fam. XV. ANABATIDÆ.

Subfam. ANABATINÆ.

122. ANABATES RUBIGINOSUS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 288.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Sir William Jardine's and  
Salvin's collections. Irides marked "red."

123. SYNALLAXIS ERYTHROTHORAX, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1855,  
p. 75, pl. 86.

Originally described from examples collected in the vicinity  
of Coban by Delattre. M. Sallé has transmitted specimens of  
this bird from the vicinity of Cordova, Vera Cruz, as also of the  
*Anabates*, of which he was the original discoverer.

Subfam. DENDROCOLAPTINÆ.

124. PICOLAPTES AFFINIS, Lafr. R. Z. 1850, p. 275.  
Pacific coast-region. Runs up the trees like a *Certhia*. Ob-  
served frequently.

125. PICOLAPTES — ?

A second species of this genus was obtained by Mr. Leyland,  
near Omoa.

126. *DENDROCOPS ANABATINUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

Omoa (Leyland).

127. *XIPHOCOLAPTES EMIGRANS*, sp. nov. *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 202.

An accurate examination of specimens of the large Central American and S. Mexican *Xiphocolaptes* has convinced us that it is specifically quite distinct from *X. albicollis* of Brazil, as indeed might have been expected from its "habitat." It does not appear to have come under the observation of M. de Lafresnaye, not being included in his Monograph of this group in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie.' It differs from *X. albicollis* in its straighter, thicker, and lighter-coloured beak, which is of a dirty horn-coloured white except at the base; in the entire absence of the black abdominal cross-bands, which particularly distinguish *X. albicollis*; and in the less extension of the white on the throat. The whole length of a specimen in Sclater's collection is  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches, wing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, tail  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Its size, therefore, renders it easily recognizable among the other species of the group found in the same country.

128. *DENDROCOLAPTES SANCTI-THOMÆ* (Lafr.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 96.

Named from S. Thomas, near the mouth of the Rio Dulce, on the bay of Honduras—a Belgian colony, and not, as is supposed (P. Z. S. *loc. cit.*), from the island. In the collection of P. L. S. from Honduras.

129. *SCLERURUS GUATEMALENSIS* (Hartl.). *Tinactor guatemalensis*, Hartl. R. Z. 1844, p. 370.

We have not yet met with specimens of *Sclerurus* from Guatemala. It may probably be identical with *S. mexicanus*, but Dr. Hartlaub's description does not agree with that bird.

## Fam. XVI. FORMICARIIDÆ.

### Subfam. THAMNOPHILINÆ.

130. *THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS* (Linn.).

This bird is common about Dueñas. It is always found in

the very thickest underwood, near, but not upon the ground. It is by no means shy, but it is hard to procure good specimens from the difficulty of keeping it in sight at a distance sufficient to avoid spoiling them.

131. *THAMNOPHILUS MELANURUS*, Gould ?

Vicinity of Omoa (Leyland). It is likely that this northern bird is really specifically distinct from the true *T. melanurus* of the valley of the Amazons.

Subfam. FORMICIVORINÆ.

132. *FORMICIVORA BOUCARDI*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 300.

Mr. Leyland obtained a female specimen near Omoa.

133. *CERCOMACRA TYRANNINA*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 245.

A pair of this species are in the Derby Museum, obtained near Coban by Delattre. Mr. Leyland obtained one example—a female—near Belize.

Subfam. FORMICARIINÆ.

134. *GYMNOCICHLA NUDICEPS* (Cassin); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 274.

Vicinity of Omoa (Leyland).

135. *GRALLARIA GUATEMALENSIS*, Prev., Voy. Vénus, Ois. t. 2; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 294.

Specimens of this bird in the Derby Museum at Liverpool were collected by Delattre at Coban in June 1843.

Fam. XVII. TYRANNIDÆ.

Subfam. TÆNIOPTERINÆ.

136. *SAYORNIS AQUATICA*, sp. nov.

Fuliginosa: secundariis alarum et caudæ rectrice extimâ extûs albo marginatâ: ventre medio albo: rostro et pedibus nigerrimis: long. totâ 9·25, alæ 3·25, caudæ 3·1, tarsi 0·7, rostri à rictu ·8.

Aff. *Sayornithi nigricanti* et *S. cineraceæ*, sed ab hâc alis minùs albis et pogonio rectricis extimæ non omninò albo, ab illâ crassitie minore et crisso fuliginoso distinguenda.

This species is resident at Dueñas, where it may always be

found a short distance from the village, up the stream of the river Guacalate. Sometimes, however, it occurs about the lake. In its actions it is lively and restless, little resembling the Tyrants in these respects. It is always found near water, and is generally to be seen sitting on a stone on the margin, from which it constantly darts to seize a fly or insect from the surface.

Mr. Gould possesses a Guatemalan example of this species in no way differing from the Dueñas bird.

Subfam. TYRANNINÆ.

137. *ATTILA CITREOPYGIA*, Bp.; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 228. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Mr. Gould's collection.

138. *SCAPHORHYNCHUS MEXICANUS*, Lafr. R. Z. 1851, p. 473. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

139. *PITANGUS DERBIANUS* (Kp.): *Saurophagus derbianus*, Kaup, P. Z. S. 1851, p. 44, pl. 36: *Saurophagus guatemalensis*, Lafr. R. Z. 1852, p. 462.

This species occurs abundantly at Belize in December. At Dueñas it appears to be only a summer visitant, as it was found breeding there in the month of May, not having previously been observed. It builds a large loose nest with a great deal of superfluous matter about it, the entrance being at one side. The single nest found was composed entirely of small twigs, and was placed at the end of a branch about twenty feet from the ground. The eggs were laid about the third week in May. They are slightly pear-shaped, and in colour of a pale creamy white, spotted and blotched with brick-red; they measure, axis 1 in.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines; diam.  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

140. *MYIODYNASTES LUTEIVENTRIS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In the collections of Mr. Gould and O. S.

141. *TYRANNUS INTREPIDUS* (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Mr. Gould's collection contains an example of this bird transmitted to him by Mr. Skinner.

142. TYRANNUS VOCIFERANS, Sw. Quart. Journ. Sc. 1826, p. 273; Baird's Rep. p. 174. *Tyrannus cassinii*, Lawrence. (N.A.) Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Salamá, Vera Paz.

143. TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS (Vieill.).

This is a very abundant resident species about Dueñas. It builds in the month of May an open nest, slight in texture and flat in form. This structure is composed of sticks, with a few fine roots and horse-hair inside, and is usually placed at the end of a branch, at various heights from the ground. The eggs, generally four in number, are spotted with three shades of red on a creamy-white ground. Some examples measure—axis  $11\frac{1}{2}$  lines, diam. 8 lines, but others are more rounded in form.

144. MILVULUS MONACHUS, Hartl. R. Z. 1844, p. 214: *Milvulus tyrannus*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297.

Scarcely different from the S. American *M. tyrannus*. It occurs at Estansuelas, a village on the road between Izabal and Guatemala. Mr. Skinner has transmitted examples of it, as also of

145. MILVULUS FORFICATUS (Gm.); Pl. Enl. 677; Baird's Rep. p. 169.

146. MYIARCHUS CRINITUS (Linn.); Baird's Rep. p. 178. (N. A.).

Mr. Gould's collection contains a Guatemalan skin of this species.

147. MYIARCHUS LAWRENCII (Giraud); Baird's Rep. p. 181.

A common and resident species at Dueñas, where its peculiarly melancholy note may frequently be heard.

148. MYIARCHUS CINERASCENS (Lawr.): *M. mexicanus*, Baird's Rep. p. 179.

Also found at Dueñas; but it is by no means of such frequent occurrence. Examples were procured at Livingston, at the mouth of the Rio Dulce, in December. We are not quite convinced of the identity of this bird with Dr. Kaup's *Tyrannula mexicana* (P. Z. S. 1851, p. 51), to which Professor Baird has united it.

149. *MYIARCHUS COOPERI*, Kaup; Baird's Rep. p. 180.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In collection of P. L. S.

150. *CONTOPUS BOREALIS* (Sw.); Baird's Rep. p. 188.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Mr. Gould's collection.

151. *CONTOPUS MESOLEUCUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

Mr. Gould's collection contains Guatemalan examples of this species.

152. *CONTOPUS SORDIDULUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

153. *CONTOPUS VIRENS* (Linn.), Baird's Rep. p. 190.  
Also transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

154. *EMPIDONAX FLAVIVENTRIS*, Baird's Rep. p. 198.  
In Mr. Gould's collection from Guatemala.

155. *EMPIDONAX MINIMUS*, Baird, Rep. p. 195.  
Occurs at Belize and Dueñas.

156. *EMPIDONAX ALBIGULARIS*, sp. nov.

Suprà sordide olivaceo-brunneus, uropygio rufescente tincto: gutture albo: pectore et cervicis lateribus grisescenti-brunneis: ventre et crisso pallidè flavis: alis et caudâ fusco-nigricantibus, illis pallido brunneo bifasciatis, secundariis extus albido angustè limbatis: tectricibus alarum inferioribus ochracescenti-brunneis: rostro superiore fusco, inferiore flavo: pedibus nigris: long. totâ 4.75, alæ 2.3, caudæ 2.1, tarsi 0.6, rostri à rictu 0.6.

Aff. *Empidonacti minimo*, sed staturâ paulò majore, alarum fasciis brunneis et gulâ purè albâ, dorso quoque obscuriore distinguenda.

A single example of this apparently undescribed species was shot by Salvin at Dueñas.

157. *MITREPHORUS PHÆOCERCUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

In Mr. Gould's collection, received from Mr. Skinner.

158. *ELAINIA VILISSIMA*, sp. nov. (Plate IV. fig. 1.)

Olivacea, pileo nigricanti-cinereo, fronte et superciliis sordidè albis: alis fusco-nigris, tectricibus majoribus, secundariis et primariis secundâ, tertiâ, quartâ et quintâ ad basin flavo





John Jeunens, ad nat. del et lith.

Stannard & Dixon.

1, ELAINIA VILISSIMA.  
2, ELAINIA PLACENS.



extùs angustè limbatis: caudâ fusco-nigricante, olivaceo marginatâ: subtus cinerascenti-alba, abdomine toto flavicante, medialiter albescentiore, hypochondriis olivaceo tinctis: tectricibus alarum inferioribus flavis: rostro superiore nigro, inferiore fusco: pedibus nigris: long. totâ 5·0, alæ 2·4, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·73, rostri à rictu 0·5.

This apparently hitherto unnoticed and obscure species belongs to the section of the genus *Elainia*, which have the head-feathers flat, and not subcrested, as in *E. pagana* (the type of the genus), *E. placens*, and others. Mr. Skinner has transmitted several examples of it, which are in Mr. Gould's and Sclater's collections.

159. ELAINIA PLACENS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th): *Elænia* — ?, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297. (Plate IV. fig. 2.)

Suprà olivacea, pileo cineraceo, cristâ internè flavâ: alis caudâque obscuris, olivaceo extùs limbatis: capitis lateribus cum gutture albescenti-cinereis, ciliis oculorum albis: abdomine et tectricibus subalaribus flavis: rostro nigro, mandibulæ inferioris basi albidâ: pedibus obscurè carneis: long. totâ 5·5, alæ 2·7, caudæ 2·6, tarsi 0·65.

Our figure is taken from a Mexican specimen of this pretty *Elainia* collected by M. Sallé near Cordova, in the month of March. It is a female, but the sexes are probably alike. A similar example is in Mr. Gould's collection received from Guatemala through Mr. Skinner.

160. LEGATUS VARIEGATUS, Sclater: *Elainia variegata*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Mr. Gould's collection.

161. MYIOZETETES TEXENSIS (Giraud). *Muscicapa texensis*, Giraud, B. Texas, pl. 1. *Tyrannula cayennensis*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 367.

An abundant and resident species at Dueñas. It builds in the month of May a nest composed of small roots and strong grass, of light construction, and covered over, having a large hole in the side. The eggs, generally three in number, are of a rich creamy white, thinly spotted at the obtuse end with red; they measure, axis  $10\frac{1}{4}$  lines, diam. 8 lines.

## Subfam. PLATYRHYNCHINÆ.

162. MUSCIVORA MEXICANA, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 295.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.
163. TODIROSTRUM CINEREUM (Linn.); P. Z. S. 1855, p. 148.  
Occurs at Belize in December.
164. MIONECTES ASSIMILIS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

## Fam. XVIII. COTINGIDÆ.

## Subfam. QUERULINÆ.

165. LIPAUGUS RUFESCENS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 276.  
Discovered by Delattre near Coban.

## Subfam. TITYRINÆ.

166. TITYRA PERSONATA (Jard. & Selb.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857,  
p. 70.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. One specimen was shot near  
Iguana, a day's journey from Ysabal, in the coast-region.
167. PACHYRHAMPHUS AGLAIÆ (Lafr.); P. Z. S. 1857, p. 74.  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon.
168. PACHYRHAMPHUS POLYCHROPTERUS (Vieill.)?  
Vicinity of Omoa (Leyland).

## Subfam. PIPRINÆ.

169. CHIROXIPHIA LINEARIS (Bp.). *Pipra linearis*, Bp. P. Z. S.  
1837, p. 113; Gould's *Voy. Sulphur, Birds*, pl. 20. p. 40. *Pipra*  
*fastuosa*, Less. R. Z. 1842, p. 174.

Mr. Skinner has transmitted skins of this beautiful bird from the Vera Paz. Mr. Hinds's specimen, figured in the 'Voyage of the Sulphur,' is said to have been from Realejo, on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua; and M. Sallé informs us that he procured examples near Granada, on the lake of Nicaragua.

170. MANACUS CANDÆI (Parzud.).

Originally described from specimens obtained in Honduras, but ranges as far northward along the Atlantic coast-region as the vicinity of Cordova, where M. Sallé obtained examples. See

P. Z. S. 1856, p. 299. Mr. Leyland obtained a female specimen near Lake Peten.

171. PIPRA MENTALIS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 299, pl. 121. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Mr. Gould's collection.

Subfam. COTINGIDÆ.

172. COTINGA AMABILIS, Gould, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 64, pl. 123. From the Vera Paz. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

Tribus II. FISSIROSTRES.

Fam. I. CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

173. NYCTIDROMUS AMERICANUS (Linn.) ?

Mr. Cassin has referred the Mexican and Central American bird to this species in his 'Catalogue of Caprimulgidæ.' It does not, however, appear to be the same as *Nyctidromus derbianus* (as given by Mr. Cassin), the latter being a much larger bird, and having the outer tail-feather broadly edged with white on the inner web.

Fam. II. CYPSELIDÆ.

174. HEMIPROCNE ZONARIS (Shaw) : *Hirundo zonaris*, Shaw ; *Acanthylis collaris*, G. R. Gray.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

175. PANYPTILA MELANOLEUCA (Baird) : *Cypselus melanoleucus*, Baird, Pr. Ac. Phil. 1854, p. 118 ; Baird, Rep. p. 141.

This Swift is by no means common in Guatemala ; indeed so local is it, that its presence might easily have been overlooked. It is found near Dueñas ; and the following extract from Salvin's note-book relates to its capture :—

“ On going out with my gun, about three o'clock in the afternoon of February 13th, I followed the course of the river *Gualate* ; and after leaving the open country and the wood beyond, I entered a gorge with precipitous rocks on my right hand. On proceeding up this gorge for about a quarter of a mile, I heard a noise coming from the rock, which I at first took to be bats in some of the cracks. After watching some time, I saw two Swifts

dart into a hole, or rather crack in the rock, about twenty feet from the ground; the noise then was louder than ever. Not altogether understanding this, I crossed the river and walked up to the foot of the cliff, and began to throw stones at the hole, to make the Swifts, which I had seen enter, fly out. Stones were no good, so I tried shouts, but with no better success. I then fired my gun at the hole, but still without result, the noise within continuing as loud as ever all the time. My last resource was to climb up as far as I could, and try and poke them out with a bamboo-cane that happened to be lying at my feet. When I had climbed up a little way, what should I see but a dead Swift, which had fallen through the crack, and been caught on the ledge where I found it? It had evidently been killed by my random shot. When I had descended, I fired again, this time frightening out five or six birds, but not, as I thought, killing any. As soon as these five or six got clear of the rock, they were pursued by all the "*Cotylæ serripennes*," of which there were a great number in the valley. As I was watching their flight, down fell a Swift at my feet. I then loaded, and was about to leave the spot, when a third made its appearance, falling down the crack. I again climbed up to where I had found the first, both to see if there were any more, and to examine more closely. Then I found a good many feathers, some pieces of dry grass, and a skeleton of a Swift. This was evidently their common roosting-place, and there were others similar in the same rock; how many inhabited the same hole I cannot say, for after I had shot three, and five or six were flying about, the noise continued as loud as ever." (O. S.)

### Fam. III. TROCHILIDÆ.

176. PHAETHORNIS CEPHALUS (Bourc. et Muls.), Rev. Zool. 1848, p. 269; Gould, Mon. Troch. part xvi.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

177. PHAETHORNIS ADOLPHI (Bourc.); Gould, Mon. Troch. part xiv.

This is an abundant species in the forest about Izabal, but the density of the undergrowth renders it extremely difficult to

obtain a shot at so small and active an object. The bird is by no means shy, and takes but little notice of an observer, even searching the flowers almost within arm's reach for the insects and honey therein contained. In movement it is extremely elegant and graceful, and, flitting from flower to flower, shows its beautifully-formed tail conspicuously in every motion. Like all others of the family, it selects a small twig for its perch, giving preference to a dead one. While at rest, it trims its feathers dexterously with its bill, which every now and then it cleans, by rubbing it first on one side, then on the other of the twig on which it stands.

178. *CAMPYLOPTERUS RUFUS* (Less.); *Rev. Zool.* 1840, p. 73; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part iii.

Transmitted by Don José Constancia. It occurs, but very rarely, at Dueñas, and would appear to be an inhabitant of an elevation higher than that district, as it is more numerous about Atitlan.

179. *CAMPYLOPTERUS DELATRII* (Less.); *Rev. Zool.* 1839, p. 14; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part x.

This magnificent species was first discovered by M. Delattre at Coban. Numerous examples have since been transmitted to Europe by Mr. Skinner.

180. *CAMPYLOPTERUS PAMPA* (Less.); *Supp. Ois. Mouches*, p. 125, pl. 15; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part x.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

181. *LAMPORNIS PREVOSTI* (Less.); *Colibris*, p. 87, pl. 24; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part xv.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

182. *PETASOPHORA THALASSINA* (Swains.), *Phil. Mag.* 1827, p. 441; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part v.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

183. *CYANOMYIA CYANOCEPHALA* (Less.); *Less. Supp. Ois. Mouches*, p. 134, pl. 18; Gould, *Mon. Troch.* part xi.

About Dueñas this is an abundant species. It frequents the shrubby forest, feeding principally among the flowers of a tree

which abounds there. This tree, which grows to a height of about twenty or thirty feet, bears clusters of white flowers, and has its branches and stem covered with spines, which sting when touched. Its bark also, when bruised, emits a milky fluid, which blisters the skin, if any be allowed to remain upon it. The bird, when taking its food from this tree, places itself in front of a bunch of the flowers, and hovers opposite, at a distance of about two or three inches. On perceiving the object of its search, it darts in, and, seizing whatever that may be, insect or honey, returns to its position in front of the cluster. So it passes on from blossom to blossom, and in like manner from cluster to cluster, until the whole tree is thoroughly ransacked. Humming-birds do not remain long on the wing at once, but rest frequently, choosing for that purpose a small dead or leafless twig at the top, or just within the branches of the tree. While in this position, they take the opportunity of trimming their feathers and cleaning their bill, all the time keeping up an incessant jerking of their wings and tail. When this operation has been gone through, they peer about for fresh flowers on which to dart. The cry of the present species is somewhat represented by the work "*chirik*," uttered frequently and with great rapidity. This cry seems common to all the family, and it is only from an intimate acquaintance that one can trace a difference between the species. When they are flying from one place to another, or pursuing one another, this cry is especially used, and in the latter case it is uttered with great vehemence. The humming sound, from which these birds take their trivial name, is something like that produced by a large beetle; but very little practice will soon so accustom the ear, that it seldom mistakes the unseen presence of a Humming-bird for anything else.

184. FLORISUGA MELLIVORA (Linn.); Gould, Mon. Troch. part ii.

185. EUGENES FULGENS (Swains.); Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 441; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xii.

186. MYIABEILLIA TYPICA (Delatt. et Less.); Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 16; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. viii.



187. *DELATTRIA HENRICI* (Less. et Delatt.); Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 17; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. viii.

188. *DELATTRIA VIRIDIPALLENS* (Bourc. et Muls.), Ann. de la Soc. de Lyons, 1846, p. 321; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. ix.

189. *LAMPROLEMA RHAMI* (Less.); Rev. Zool. 1838, p. 315; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xi.

190. *HELIOMASTER CONSTANTI* (Delatt.); Echo du Monde Savant, 1843; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. v.

Examples of all these six species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

191. *THAUMASTURA ENICURA* (Vieill.); Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. iv.

On no occasion were the males of this species observed about Dueñas during the months of February and March; indeed it was not until the month of May that both males and females were seen together, at which time, the *nopal* of the cochineal plantations being in full flower, great numbers of Humming-birds, especially of this species, were in the habit of feeding from the blossoms of that cactus. The females during the winter months are common enough, and frequent the same places, and feed principally on the same trees, as the *Cyanomyia cyanocephala*.

192. *SELASPHORUS HELOISÆ* (Less. et Delatt.), Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 15; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. viii.

193. *SELASPHORUS PLATYCERCUS* (Swains.); Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. iii.

194. *TRYPHÆNA DUPONTI* (Less.), Colibris, Supp. pl. 1; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. i.

Examples of these three species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

195. *TROCHILUS COLUBRIS* (Linn.); Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xv.

This species would appear to be abundant in the winter months in Guatemala, as numerous examples have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. It occurs at Acatenango, a village on

the southern slope of the great Cordillera, showing that it chooses for its winter retreat the moderate climate afforded by the region lying between the elevations of 3000 and 4000 feet.

196. *LOPHORNIS HELENÆ* (Delatt.), Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 133; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. x.

197. *AMAZILLIA CORALLIROSTRIS* (Bourc. et Muls.), Ann. de la Soc. de Lyons, ix. (1846) p. 328; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xiii.

This species seems to be an inhabitant of the hot sea-board only, and does not extend its vertical range to a greater elevation than 2000 feet. In such regions on the Pacific coast it is very abundant, and is, in fact, the commonest of the family, in some parts almost swarming. In every village numbers may be seen flitting about the blossoms of the orange- and lime-trees. Its horizontal range appears to be extensive, and may be said to include the whole of the southern portion of Guatemala from the confines of Chiapas to the State of San Salvador, and probably also embraces the Balsam coast of that Republic, as Capt. Taylor obtained examples on Tigré Island, Bay of Fonseca (P. Z. S. 1858, p. 358).

198. *AMAZILLIA RIEFFERI* (Bourc.), Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 103: *A. dubusi* (Bourc.).

199. *AMAZILLIA ARSINOË* (Less.).

200. *THAUMATIAS CANDIDUS* (Bourc.), Ann. de la Soc. de Lyons, 1846.

201. *CHRYSURONIA ELICIÆ* (Bourc. et Muls.), Ann. de la Soc. Sci. de Lyons, 1846, p. 314; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xvi.

202. *HELIOPEDICA MELANOTIS* (Swains.): *Trochilus melanotus*, Swains. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 441; Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xv.

203. *EUPHERUSA EXIMIA* (Delatt.); Gould, Mon. Troch. pt. xiv.

204. *CHLOROSTILBON CANEVETI* (Less.), Colibris, Supp. pl. 37. Specimens of these seven species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## Fam. IV. GALBULIDÆ.

205. *GALBULA MELANOGENIA*, Sclater, Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 61.  
Inhabits the Atlantic coast-region. Specimens were obtained by Leyland near Omoa.

## Fam. V. ALCEDINIDÆ.

206. *CERYLE TORQUATA* (Linn.).

Observed on the Rio Dulce, but not obtained; so there may be some doubt as to the species.

207. *CERYLE ALCYON* (Linn.). (N. A.)

Shot at Belize, and again on the Golfo Dulce, and appears to be tolerably common in the winter on the Atlantic coast.

208. *CERYLE AMAZONA* (Gm.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Procured by Capt. Taylor on the lake of Yojoa.

209. *CERYLE AMERICANA* (Gm.).

Occurs abundantly everywhere upon the small streams in the Atlantic coast-region and in the interior. Observed near Dueñas frequently, both on the Guacalate and on the outlet of lake of Dueñas.

210. *CERYLE SUPERCILIOSA* (Linn.).

This species is found in the Pacific coast-region, frequenting the forest-swamps as well as the large rivers. The specimens, on comparison with S. American examples, show no appreciable differences.

## Fam. VI. MOMOTIDÆ.

211. *MOMOTUS LESSONI* (Less.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia and Mr. Skinner. A Motmot, probably of this species, was observed both in the Pacific and Atlantic coast-regions. It is usually seen sitting very upright on a low branch of a tree, and uttering its low, melancholy double note—*hōū-hōū*—whence the generic name was doubtless derived. It is by no means shy, and known by the Spanish name of '*Paxaro bobo*,' or stupid bird.

212. *HYLOMANES GULARIS* (Laf.).

Transmitted by Señor Constancia and Mr. Skinner.

213. PRIONIRHYNCHUS CARINATUS (Du Bus); P. Z. S. 1857, pl. 128. et 1858, p. 357.

Obtained by Capt. Taylor near the lake of Yojoa, Honduras.

214. EUMOMOTA SUPERCILIARIS (Jard. & Selb.). *Momotus yucatanensis*, Cabot, Boston Journ. N. H. iv. p. 467.

Inhabits the Atlantic coast-region of Yucatan, extending as far round as the Bay of Campeachy.

#### Fam. VII. TROGONIDÆ.

215. TROGON MEXICANUS (Swains.); Gould, Mon. Trogonidæ, pl. 1.

Salvin's collection contains Guatemalan examples of this bird.

216. TROGON PUELLA, Gould, P. Z. S. 1845, p. 18: *Trogon xalapensis*, Du Bus.

Mr. Skinner has sent many examples of this bird to Europe, transmitted to him from the Department of Vera Paz. It occurs in the Pacific coast-region. It is therefore in the ' *tierra caliente*,' and not in the mountainous district, that *T. puella* is found.

217. TROGON CALIGATUS, Gould, Mon. Trogonidæ, pl. 7.

This is an abundant species in the Pacific coast-region.

218. TROGON MELANOCEPHALUS, Gould, Mon. Trogonidæ, pl. 12.

Guatemala and Honduras.

219. TROGON CITREOLUS, Gould, Mon. Trogonidæ, pl. 13.

Mr. Gould's example of this rare Trogon is said to be from Yucatan.

220. TROGON MASSENA, Gould, Mon. Trogonidæ, pl. 16.

Honduras (Leyland).

221. PHAROMACRUS PARADISEUS (Bp.): *Trogon pavoninus*, Temm. (nec Spixi) Pl. Col. 372: *Trogon paradiseus*, Bp. (1826): *Pharomacrus mocinno*, De la Llave, Registro Trimestre, i. p. 48 (1831): *Calurus resplendens*, Gould, Mon. Trog. pl. 21; Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 63.

Though this most beautiful of all the Trogons has never come under the observation of a naturalist since M. Delattre discovered

it at Coban, and consequently nothing further can be added to our knowledge of its habits, yet the following observations define the limits to which its range extends. The altitude at which this species is found exceeds 6000 feet, and it would appear to occur more or less numerous in all the mountainous districts that attain such an elevation. A few may be found at Calderas, in the Volcan de Fuego, according to Mr. Wyld of Dueñas, who says that the females are much more numerous than the males in that locality, and that the males are seldom seen.

The Department of Quesaltenango, and its capital of the same name, the second city in Guatemala, derive their appellation from this bird,—“*Quesal*” being the term applied in the Kachiquel language to this Trogon, the termination “*tenango*” signifying the place of. Hence Quesaltenango is, *par excellence*, the place of the Quesal. However, it is from Coban and its neighbourhood, in the Department of Vera Paz, that the whole of the skins that find their way to Europe are procured; and judging from the great number of specimens that are sent, the bird must be very numerous in that locality.

### Tribus III. SCANSORES.

#### Fam. I. CUCULIDÆ.

222. *DROMOCOCCYX MEXICANUS*, Bp. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 308.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon, Vera Paz.

223. *DIPLOPTERUS EXCELLENS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 228.

San Pedro, Honduras (Leyland).

224. *PIAYA MEXICANA* (Sw.), Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 440; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 308.

Honduras (Taylor), Guatemala (Constancia), Lake of Peten and Omoa (Leyland).

225. *PIAYA ERYTHROPYGIA*, Less. Rev. Zool. 1842, p. 209; Des Murs, Icon. Orn. pl. 66.

The following remarks, referring to the only specimen seen, are from Salvin's note-book:—

“As we were riding from Subinal to Laguna, two villages on

the road from Izabal to Guatemala, the latter being about eleven leagues from the capital, my attention was called by one of my companions to a bird he had just seen cross the road. The underwood was very dense at that part, and I had great difficulty at first in catching a glimpse of the bird; and when I succeeded, its distance from me was so short that I for some time hesitated to shoot, my gun being loaded with No. 6 only. Seeing no prospect of a better shot, I at last fired, and reduced my specimen to a mangled mass, which I was only just able to make into a very indifferent skin.

“As the time between my first seeing the bird and shooting it occupied some minutes, I was enabled to watch it closely. Its habits assimilate to those of the *Geococcyx affinis*, and it skulks along the ground as that species does, now running rapidly, now standing still with its head erect. But it differed from *G. affinis* in climbing about the branches of the low underwood. The song of this Cuckoo, though short, is peculiarly rich in its tone, and there is a mellowness in each note that I have seldom heard surpassed. An Indian to whom I showed it at Laguna called it ‘*El reloj,*’ or ‘*The watch,*’ and said that it sang at every hour of the day, the length of the song depending upon the hour; thus, he said, that at 1 o’clock it sang a very short song, and at 12 o’clock a very long one! Another Indian called it ‘*El pajaro tonto,*’ or ‘*The foolish bird,*’ a name strictly applicable, as I could have almost caught the one I shot with my hand.”

The principal colour of the bare skin at the back of the eye is almost cobalt-blue; the legs are brownish yellow, and the irides dark.

226. *GEOCOCYX AFFINIS*, Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 215.

This Cuckoo is abundant all over the Central region, and also occurs, though sparingly, in the Atlantic coast-region.

The habits of this curious bird, especially in the way it runs, remind one much of the large lizard commonly known in Guatemala as the “*Iguana.*” It passes rapidly across the road, as that reptile does, first peering out of the underwood before making a rush, and now and then stopping, just before diving in again, to take a final survey. The bird is by no means shy, often remaining quite still by the side of a path, looking at you

with a sort of inquiring gaze, as if it had never seen man before. The Spanish name for it is "*Sigamonte*."

227. *CROTOPHAGA SULCIROSTRIS*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 440.

Though the habits of this bird closely resemble those of its congener, *C. ani*, of the West India Islands, of which Mr. Gosse, in his 'Birds of Jamaica,' gives a full description, the notes of the two species are quite different, and resemble each other only in character. It occurs commonly at Dueñas, and was found in the vicinity of Omoa by Leyland.

### Fam. II. RHAMPHASTIDÆ.

228. *RHAMPHASTOS CARINATUS* (Sw.); Gould, Mon. ed. 2, pl. 7.

Along the banks of the Rio Dulce this Toucan is abundant. It is known to the negro sailors as the "Billy-goat," to the bleating of which animal the cry of the bird has a faint resemblance.

229. *PTEROGLOSSUS TORQUATUS* (Wagler); Gould, Mon. ed. 2, pl. 14.

Like the last, occurs on the Rio Dulce, but is not so numerous. It is found also in the Pacific coast-region, where it is not uncommon in the neighbourhood of San Sebastian.

230. *AULACORHAMPHUS PRASINUS* (Gould), Mon. ed. 2, pl. 29.

A true inhabitant of the mountainous districts and central coast-region. It occurs at Calderas, also in Vera Paz, from which last locality Mr. Skinner has sent numerous examples. The Spanish name for all the Toucans is "*Cucharon*."

### Fam. III. PICIDÆ.

231. *DRYOCOPUS GUATEMALENSIS* (Hartl.), Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 214: *D. regius*, Reichb.

Extends from S. Mexico, where it was procured by Sallé (P. Z. S. 1857, p. 226), through Guatemala to Honduras, where Captain Taylor obtained specimens. See P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

232. *DRYOCOPUS SCAPULARIS* (Vig.): *D. leucorhamphus*, Reichb.

Seems to have the same range as the preceding, having been

also procured in the two last-mentioned localities. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Vera Paz. Salvin saw either this or the former species near the city of Guatemala fly from a tree, which it was ascending, and return, after seizing an insect in the air.

233. *CAMPEPHILUS IMPERIALIS* (Gould) ?

This largest and finest of all the *Picidæ* is believed to occur in the densely-wooded *barrancos* which are scored out in the sides of the Volcan de Fuego. The description given by Mr. Wyld, of Dueñas, of a specimen shot by him, seems to correspond to no other known species.

234. *CENTURUS SANTACRUZI*, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 116 : *Picus dubius*, Cabot.

Seems generally distributed in Guatemala, occurring principally in the coast-region ; but also seen at Dueñas. Dr. Cabot says that this bird is not uncommon in Yucatan. Captain Taylor procured it near Comayagua, Honduras, and Mr. Skinner has transmitted examples from Salamá, Vera Paz.

235. *CENTURUS PUCHERANII* (Malherbe) ; Bp. Consp. i. p. 120. Vicinity of Omoa (Leyland).

236. *SPHYROPICUS VARIUS* (Linn.) ; Baird, Rep. p. 103. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

237. *PICUS JARDINII*, Malherbe ; P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

Procured by Capt. Taylor in Honduras, near Taulevi ; and extends as far northwards as Orizaba.

238. *PICUS SCALARIS*, Wagler : *Picus parvus*, Cabot.

Obtained by Dr. Cabot in the neighbourhood of Tocol, Yucatan.

239. *CHLORONERPES YUCATANENSIS* (Cabot) ; Sclat. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 307.

Yucatan (Cabot). Occurs near Dueñas, but not very commonly.

240. *CHLORONERPES SANGUINOLENTUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859 (Jan. 25th).

Near Omoa (Leyland).



## 241. MELANERPES FORMICIVORUS (Sw.).

Is found in the central region. Specimens were obtained at Calderas, on the Volcan de Fuego, where it frequents the forests of evergreen oaks and feeds upon the acorns.

## 242. CELEUS CASTANEUS (Wagler); P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

Specimens of this species were obtained by Leyland in his recent expedition to Honduras, and by Capt. Taylor on the Inter-oceanic railway route, on the Atlantic slope. It seems confined to the hot coast-region.

243. COLAPTES MEXICANOIDES, Lafr. R. Z. 1844, p. 42: *Colaptes rubricatus*, Gray and Mitch. Gen. B. pl. 111 (nec Licht.).

This is quite a distinct species from *Colaptes mexicanus*. (Confer Baird, Gen. Rep. p. 121.) Specimens were procured by Delattre near Coban. It was observed to occur abundantly in the *barranco* of Los Chocoyos, in the Altos of Guatemala, in May 1858. Gray and Mitchell's plate gives a very good representation of the male, though the synonyms quoted are all referable to *C. mexicanus*. The female has the rictal spot brown, like the head, instead of red. In *C. mexicanus* the female has *no* rictal spot.

## Fam. IV. PSITTACIDÆ.

## Subfam. ARINÆ.

## 244. ARA ARACANGA (Gm.); Pl. Enl. 12; Wagler, Mon. Psitt. p. 672.

This *Ara* is common in the Pacific coast-region, and generally seen in pairs. They keep to the topmost branches of the forest trees, and, as in captivity, are very noisy. The bird is commonly known as "*Guacamaya*."

## 245. CONURUS ASTEC, Souancé, Rev. Zool. 1857, p. 97.

Obtained by Leyland at Belize. In collection of P. L. S.

246. CONURUS LINEOLATUS (Cassin): *Psittacula lineolata*, Cassin, P. Ac. Sc. Philad.: *Bolborhynchus catharina*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xliv. p. 538.

The example of this Parrot in the collection of Dr. Cabot of Boston was obtained by him in the island of Cosumel, Yucatan.

## Subfam. PSITTACULINÆ.

247. PIONUS SENILIS (Spix).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

248. CHRYSOTIS AURIPALLIATUS (Less.): *Amazona auropalliatus*, Less. Descr. Mamm. et Ois. p. 198: *Psittacus flavinuchus*, Gould, Zool. Voy. Sulphur, p. 45, pl. 27.

This Parrot is common in the Pacific coast-region of Guatemala.

249. CHRYSOTIS ALBIFRONS (Sparm.); Souancé, Icon. des Perr. pl. 30; P. Z. S. 1858, p. 35.

250. CHRYSOTIS ——— ?

A young bird in Sclater's collection, from Omoa (Leyland), is difficult to determine, but not improbably belongs to an undescribed species.

There are considerable additions to be made to the present list of Central American Parrots.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE V.

Fig. 1. Egg of *Tanagra vicarius* (p. 16).

Fig. 2. Egg of *Pyrgisoma biarcuatum* (p. 18).

Fig. 3. Egg of *Pitangus derbianus* (p. 120).

Fig. 4. Egg of *Tyrannus melancholicus* (p. 121).

Fig. 5. Egg of *Myiozetetes texensis* (p. 123).

Fig. 6. Egg of *Cyanocitta melanocyanea* (p. 21).

Fig. 7. Egg of *Turdus grayii* (p. 5).

[To be continued.]

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XIII.—*Observations on the Birds of St. Croix, West Indies, made, between February 20th and August 6th 1857 by ALFRED NEWTON, and, between March 4th and September 28th 1858 by EDWARD NEWTON. (Part II.)*

[Continued from p. 69.]

† 8. GRASS-GREEN-BREASTED HUMMING BIRD. *Eulampis chlorolæmus*, Gould, Monogr. Troch. pt. xiv. "Doctor Bird."

This is the only species of this wonderful group of little birds that is at all common in St. Croix. Wilson, Audubon, Mr.



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# THE IBIS.

No. III. JULY 1859.

XXIII.—*On the Ornithology of Central America.* Part III.  
By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER and OSBERT SALVIN.

[Concluded from p. 138.]

## Ordo II. ACCIPITRES.

### Fam. I. VULTURIDÆ.

#### 251. CATHARTES AURA (Linn.). (N. A.)

If Mr. Cassin's authority for the occurrence of *C. burrovianus* at Vera Cruz is good, that bird also doubtless occurs in Guatemala; but, as far as we know, it has not yet been observed. All the birds especially noticed by Salvin, presented the characters of the true *C. aura* of the U.S.

In this country this Vulture is not nearly so abundant as *C. atratus*. Leaving to that species all the duties of the scavenger, it frequents the more uncultivated and forest districts. A few may always be seen about the Lake of Dueñas.

#### 252. CATHARTES ATRATUS (Bartram). (N. A.)

Except perhaps *Quiscalus macrurus*, this is the most familiar bird in Guatemala. Every town and village has its *Zopilotes*; and badly would the inhabitants exist were it not for these diligent scavengers. At night they usually retire to the forest, and in the early morning troop back to their posts in the streets and lanes, and about the tops of the houses and churches.

They build their nests in the forest, though, in Antigua Guatemala, it is said that they use the ruins of the old churches for that purpose.

## 253. GYPARCHUS PAPA (Linn.). (N. A.)

It is only on the coast-regions that the King Vulture is found; it does not extend its range into the central district. In the above localities it is frequently to be observed either soaring high in the air, and wheeling in circles during the heat of the day, or presiding over a putrid carcase, and driving off any presumptuous Black Vulture that may venture to approach within prescribed limits. Having eaten his fill, he sits in a tree hard by the carcase, sleeping and digesting his meal, while his late attendants fight and scramble for each disgusting morsel. The Spanish term for this bird is "el Rey Zopilote," exactly answering to our King Vulture.

## Fam. II. FALCONIDÆ.

## Subfam. POLYBORINÆ.

## 254. POLYBORUS THARUS (Molina): Baird's Report, p. 45. (N. A.)

This bird is universal in its distribution throughout the country, and appears equally abundant everywhere. At Dueñas it is a constant resident, and breeds in the surrounding hills.

The food of this species consists principally of the ticks of animals.

255. IBYCTER AMERICANUS (Bodd.): Pl. Enl. 417: *Falco aquilinus*, Gm.

In the Pacific coast-region this bird is found; and its extraordinary cry, well expressed by the word 'cacao,' uttered with the first syllable reiterated several times, may not unfrequently be heard resounding through the dense tropical forest. It would appear to be confined to this region, since no examples have been as yet forwarded to this country through the instrumentality of Mr. Skinner or other hands. The species may be generally observed in pairs, seldom singly; but sometimes several occur together. The cry is made by the bird when sitting on a branch; and the tail is expanded with a jerk, on the utterance of each note.

## Subfam. AQUILINÆ.

256. PANDION CAROLINENSIS (Gm.): Baird, Rep. p. 44.  
(N. A.)

Occurs abundantly on both the coast-regions; also particularly noticed about Belize, where it is said to breed.

257. HERPETOTHERES CACHINNANS (Linn.).

This species is not uncommon in the Atlantic coast-region, and about the village of Chimalapa it is even of frequent occurrence. Throughout the Pacific coast-region it would appear to be less numerous, as a single individual only was noticed near the hacienda 'La Grande.' It is known among the Spaniards by the name of the 'Guansi.'

258. SPIZAËTUS ORNATUS (Daud.).

Numerous examples of this fine bird have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz, procured in Cajabon and other localities.

259. SPIZAËTUS TYRANNUS (Max.): Temm. Pl. Col. 75.

Likewise transmitted by Mr. Skinner, and now in the Norwich Museum.

260. SPIZAËTUS MELANOLEUCUS (Vieill.): Temm. Pl. Col. 79.

One example of this bird is also in the Norwich Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

261. THRASAËTUS HARPYIA (Linn.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz. Many stories of the boldness of the Harpy, in its depredations on their pigs, are told by the Indians; but most of them with such evident exaggeration, that the truth is difficult to arrive at.

262. URUBITINGA ZONURA (Shaw). *Falco urubitinga*, Gm.: Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 128.

This bird is found throughout the whole country, on the Pacific, at Dueñas, and in the Vera Paz, from which latter district examples have been forwarded by Mr. Skinner. It would appear, however, to be an inhabitant of the hotter, rather than the temperate region, as its occurrence in the central district is not frequent.

263. URUBITINGA ANTHRACINA (Nitzsch): Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 129.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Two immature birds of this species were shot by Salvin at Punta Arenas, in the Gulf of Nicoya, on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. The stomachs of both these birds contained fragments of small crustacea. Mr. Leyland obtained examples of this bird in the vicinity of Omoa.

264. URUBITINGA — ?

Several skins of a *Urubitinga* in an immature state of plumage have at different times been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. One of these, in the Norwich Museum, shows a few feathers indicating that the adult is of the usual dark colouring of this group. Until lately, Mr. Gurney referred it to the South American *U. schistacea*; but, on closer comparison, he now concludes that it differs specifically from that bird, and belongs to a species whose adult plumage is as yet unknown.

265. URUBITINGA UNICINCTA (Temm.): Pl. Col. 313. *Craxirex unicinctus*, Baird, Rep. p. 46. (N. A.)

In the Norwich Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

266. BUTEOGALLUS NIGRICOLLIS (Lath.): Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 43.

About the forest-swamps of the low district in the neighbourhood of the village of Santana Mixtan, this species occurs. Here it is not uncommon, and may be seen sitting on a dead stump or branch of a tree, uttering occasionally its harsh monotonous cry. From the stomach of one shot in the above locality were taken the scales of some species of fish, which, with the strong smell of the claws, left no doubt as to the nature of its food.

#### Subfam. BUTEONINÆ.

267. BUTEO INSIGNATUS, Cassin, B. of Cal. pp. 102 et 198, pl. 31. (N. A.)

We have Mr. Gurney's authority for ascribing a single specimen shot by Salvin at Dueñas to this curious species. It appears to be rare in that district as elsewhere, as no others were observed, and none of the collections forwarded by Mr. Skinner have contained examples.



268. *BUTEO BOREALIS* (Gm.). (N. A.)

This species seems to be generally and plentifully distributed; and numerous examples in all stages of plumage, from the young to the adult, have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. It occurs also at Dueñas.

269. *BUTEO HARLANI* (Aud.)? (N. A.)

A Buzzard, which Salvin refers to this species, was seen by him at Dueñas, but is by no means common. See Mr. Gurney's views on this bird in P. Z. S. 1857, p. 210.

270. *BUTEO PENNSYLVANICUS* (Wils.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

271. *BUTEO ZONOCERCUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 130.

The only example known of this *Buteo* was transmitted from Guatemala by Mr. Skinner, and is now in the Norwich Museum.

272. *BUTEO ALBONOTATUS*, Kaup, Isis, 1847, p. 399.

The southern slope of the Cordillera appears to be the true habitat of this species, but even here it cannot be said to be common. Like many of its class, it is a feeder on beetles and locusts.

273. *BUTEO GHIESBREGHTII*, Du Bus, Esq. Orn. pl. 1.

This magnificent species occurs not unfrequently throughout the Pacific coast-region, where it is well known to the natives. It appears to be confined to that district, as no examples have been procured by the many collectors that have traversed the corresponding region on the Atlantic.

274. *ASTURINA NITIDA* (Lath.): Temm. Pl. Col. 87 et 294.

Though abundant in the hot country on both coast-regions of the Republic of Guatemala, this bird does not occur in the temperate region. Its food consists of Lizards; and, as appears to be the case with all Hawks selecting such food, the flesh is very rank.

275. *ASTURINA MAGNIROSTRIS* (Gm.): Pl. Enl. 464.

Like the last, this bird is confined in its range to the hot coast regions, where it is abundant. Its food comprises small reptiles, centipedes and locusts.

276. *ASTURINA BRACHYURA* (Vieill.). *Buteo brachyurus*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. iv. p. 477; Pucheran, R. Z. 1850, p. 86. *Asturina albifrons*, Kaup, Isis, 1847, p. 200, et Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 67.

One specimen of this fine species, transmitted by Mr. Skinner, is now in the Norwich Museum.

Subfam. ACCIPITRINÆ.

277. *GERANOSPIZA CÆRULESCENS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius cærulescens*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. x. 318. *Falco gracilis* et *Falco hemidactylus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 91 et 3. *Ischnosceles niger*, Du Bus, Esq. Orn. pl. 16.

The best authorities now seem to be agreed that there is only one species of this form. As that occurs in Southern Mexico as well as in South America, there can be no doubt of its also being found in Guatemala.

278. *MICRASTUR GILVICOLLIS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius gilvicollis*, Vieill. *Micrastur concentricus*, auct.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

279. *MICRASTUR RUFICOLLIS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius ruficollis*, Vieill. *Falco xanthothorax*, Temm. Pl. Col. 92.

A skin of this bird received from Mr. Skinner is in Salvin's collection.

280. *MICRASTUR SEMITORQUATUS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius semitorquatus*, Vieill. *Falco brachypterus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 116, 141. *Falco percontator*, Cabot, Boston Journ. iv. 462.

Examples of this species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Dr. Cabot observed it in Yucatan.

281. *ACCIPITER FUSCUS* (Gm.). (N. A.)

This species occurs rarely in the Pacific coast-region. Examples also have been transmitted from Vera Paz.

282. *ACCIPITER ERYTHROCNEMIS*, Kaup, Jard. Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 64.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. *Nisus chionogaster*, Kaup (P. Z. S. 1851, p. 41), from Coban, is probably nothing more than this species.

## Subfam. FALCONINÆ.

## 283. FALCO ANATUM, Bp. (N. A.)

A single example of this bird, in an immature state of plumage, was shot at Dueñas in February, 1858.

284. HYPOTRIORCHIS FEMORALIS (Temmm.). *Falco femoralis*, Temmm. Pl. Col. 121 et 343.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 285. HYPOTRIORCHIS RUFIGULARIS (Daud.): Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 88.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 286. TINNUNCULUS SPARVERIUS (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a very abundant species over the whole republic of Guatemala; but at Dueñas it is migratory, being a visitant there only during the winter months. The name applied to this species by the Spaniards is '*Klis-klis*.'

## 287. HARPAGUS BIDENTATUS (Lath.): Temmm. Pl. Col. 38 et 228.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## Subfam. MILVINÆ.

## 288. CYMINDIS CAYENNENSIS (Gm.).

The Norwich Museum contains an example of this species from Honduras. Mr. Leyland met with it in the S. Pedro Mountains.

## 289. CYMINDIS UNCINATUS (Temmm.), Pl. Col. 103, 104 et 115.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 290. ROSTRHAMUS SOCIABILIS (Vieill.).

Salvin ascribes the immense flights of hawks seen by him in the month of March in the Pacific coast-region, migrating in a north-westerly direction, to this species. The bird is well known to the Spaniards under the name of the '*Asacuani*;' and the term has become proverbial for a person who is constantly wandering from place to place. Mr. Leyland procured a single specimen of this bird near the Lake of Peten.

## 291. ELANUS LEUCURUS (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

## 292. ICTINIA PLUMBEA (Vieill.). (N. A.)

The Norwich Museum contains an example of this species from Honduras.

## 293. ELANOIDES FURCATUS (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Examples from the neighbourhood of Cajabon have recently been forwarded by Mr. Skinner; one of these is in the immature plumage, and shows a white edging to the feathers of the wing-coverts. If accounts are correct, this bird is more numerous at Belize, where it is also said to breed.

## Subfam. CIRCINÆ.

## 294. CIRCUS HUDSONICUS (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a migratory species at Dueñas, and probably throughout the whole country. During the winter months two or three females, or immature birds, generally frequented the Lake, the adult males being much less commonly seen. It occurs in the Pacific coast-region; and examples have also been transmitted from the Vera Paz.

## Fam. III. STRIGIDÆ.

295. GLAUCIDIUM INFUSCATUM (Temm.). *Strix passerinoides*, Temm. Pl. Col. 344.

A single example of this little Owl was shot by Salvin near the village of Laguna, one day's journey from Guatemala. This species has frequently been included in the collections transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

296. GLAUCIDIUM JARDINII, Bp. *Phalænopsis jardinii*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xli. 654 (?).

The Norwich Museum contains an Owl, transmitted by Mr. Skinner, which seems to belong to this species.

## 297. SCOPS M'CALLII, Cassin, Birds of Californ. p. 180 (?).

A specimen received from Mr. Skinner, in the Norwich Museum, seems to agree very well with the example of this bird from Mexico, as referred to in P. Z. S. 1858, p. 296.

## 298. SCOPS — ?

Though a skin from Cajabon seems to present some features that might entitle it to be considered as a distinct species, yet so much obscurity exists with respect to these Owls, that to give new names tends only to increase the confusion. The species to which it is most nearly allied are *Scops usta*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 132, and *S. brasiliensis*, from the former of which it differs in having the ears less conspicuous, and in wanting the deep rufous tinge that pervades the whole plumage of that bird. It also has a light marking over the eye which is wanting in *S. usta*. From the latter it differs in its general tone of colouring, the breast being lighter and the back richer and more rufous. More examples will be necessary, to trace the changes of its plumage, before entering upon its claims to be held as a really distinct species.

299. LOPHOSTRIX STRICKLANDI, Sclat. et Salv. *Scops cristata*, Daud., *var.*, Strickl., Contr. Orn. 1848, p. 60, pl. 10.

The late Mr. Strickland has, in his usual accurate manner, pointed out the characters which distinguish this Central American bird from its prototype of Cayenne. He was acquainted only with one example, from which his figure was taken. Mr. Skinner having lately transmitted three examples of this bird from the Vera Paz, all of which agree in the distinctions given by Mr. Strickland, we cannot avoid considering it as entitled to specific rank. The most obvious differences are the absence of the white on the forehead, the blackish ear-coverts, and the much more distinct markings on the wings in the present bird.

300. SYRNIUM NEBULOSUM (Forster): Baird's Rep. p. 56. (N. A.)

The Norwich Museum contains examples of this Owl transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon, where it appears to breed, as one of the specimens is in the downy plumage of the young bird.

301. SYRNIUM VIRGATUM, Cassin, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 285.

Numerous examples of this species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

302. SYRNIUM PERSPICILLATUM (Lath.), Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 193.

The hotel-keeper at Escuintla had in June last a bird in the immature plumage of this species; and the collection of Don Vicente Constancia in Antigua Guatemala contains a similar one.

303. STRIX PRATINCOLA, Bp., Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 179. (N.A.)  
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

### Ordo III. COLUMBÆ.

#### Fam. COLUMBIDÆ.

304. COLUMBA RUFINA, Temm. Fig. t. 24; Bp. Consp. ii. p. 52.

Three or four Pigeons were seen on the banks in the trees, when ascending the Rio Dulce in the middle of December. One only was secured, which proved to be a female of this species in very fine plumage. We are not aware that its occurrence so far north has been previously noticed.

305. COLUMBA LEUCOCEPHALA, Linn.

Inhabits the Keys, or small islands, on the coast of Honduras (Leyland).

306. COLUMBA SPECIOSA, Gm.

Near Lake Peten (Leyland).

307. LEPTOPTILA ALBIFRONS, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 74. *Peristera brachyptera*, Gray, MS.

This is a very abundant species at Dueñas, where it is seen under or in the lower parts of the trees. It occurs generally in pairs, and is resident all the year.

308. PERISTERA CINEREA (Temm.).

Omoa (Leyland).

309. ZENAIDURA CAROLINENSIS (Linn.): Bp. Consp. ii. p. 84. (N. A.)

Also very abundant about Dueñas, but inhabits the open districts. It usually congregates in flocks, and is resident.

## 310. SCARDAFELLA INCA, Bp.

Found in flocks with *Chamæpelis rufipennis*, near S. Pedro and Peten, Honduras (Leyland).

## 311. ZENAIDA LEUCOPTERA (Linn.): Bp. Consp. p. 81. (N. A.)

Omoa (Leyland). One of the common Doves about Dueñas in April and May. It is found on the ground in the open savannahs.

## 312. CHAMÆPELIA RUFIPENNIS, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 359: P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

Obtained by Capt. Taylor at Comayagua, Honduras.

## 313. CHAMÆPELIA PASSERINA (Linn.).

This is one of the most familiar birds of the central region, where it is the only small Ground-dove found. In the coast-regions its place is supplied by two other species at least. At Dueñas it is abundant, residing all the year, and breeding in the cochineal-plantations, where it deposits its eggs, two in number, on the ground under the rows of 'Nopal.'

The Spanish name for this species is 'Tortolita.'

## Ordo V. GALLINÆ.

## Fam. I. CRACIDÆ.

## Subfam. CRACINÆ.

## 314. CRAX ALECTOR, Linn.

In the forests of both coast-regions this species occurs, though somewhat sparingly. It is usually seen in the early morning, or in the evening, perched on a branch of a tree, where it rests, looking at a passer-by with a vacant rather than an alarmed expression. When thus found, a sportsman may approach in the most open manner to within gun-shot. To the Spaniards it is known as the '*Pahuil*,' and to the mahogany-cutters of Belize as the '*Curassow*.'

## Subfam. PENELOPINÆ.

## 315. PENELOPE PURPURASCENS, Wagler.

This bird frequents the same localities as *Crax alector*; and the habits of the two closely resemble each other; but *P. purpu-*

*rascens* is much more numerous, and occurs abundantly in many parts. It is said to build in trees. The Spanish name is '*Pavo*,' which is translated as '*Turkey*' by some, and '*Peacock*' by other writers on Central America.

316 PENELOPE NIGRA, Fraser, P. Z. S. 1850, p. 246, pl. xxix. In the British Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

317. ORTALIDA VETULA (Wagler). *Penelope vetula*, Wagl. Isis, 1830, p. 1112; Moore in P. Z. S. 1859, p. 62.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Sir William Jardine's collection. Birds of this genus are common in both the coast-regions, and known by the name of '*Chacha*.' They inhabit the forests, and are always seen on the trees.

318. ORTALIDA LEUCOGASTRA (Gould). *Penelope albiventer*, Less. Rev. Zool. 1842, p. 174 (nec Wagl.). *Penelope leucogastra*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 105; Gould, Voy. Sulphur, Zool. p. 48, pl. xxxi.

This Guan is very abundant in the Pacific coast-region, where, in the neighbourhood of the more remote and smaller villages, the woods in the early morning resound with its loud continued cries. Like *Penelope purpurascens*, it is usually seen in trees, and shows little symptom of alarm on one approaching. The time of breeding seems to extend over some period, as young birds and fresh eggs were observed simultaneously in the month of March. The former appear to run almost immediately on becoming free from the shell, and, clinging to the branches of the underwood, are nimble in eluding capture. The nest is usually placed in a low bush, and is composed entirely of small twigs. The eggs, two in number, are of rough texture, and in colour pure creamy-white; they measure, axis 1.25 in., diam. 1.5 in.

#### Subfam. OREOPHASIDINÆ.

319. OREOPHASIS DERBIANUS, Gray & Mitch. Gen. of Birds, pl. 121: *O. fronticornis*, V. d. Hoeven.

This bird, one of the most curious as well as the most interesting in Central America, is extremely rare, and its range, as far as is at present known, circumscribed within very narrow limits. The single volcanic peak '*el Volcan de Fuego*' is generally said



to be its sole "habitat," though there is strong reason to believe that the specimens procured by Mr. Skinner were obtained from the neighbouring mountain, 'el Volcan de Agua.' From careful inquiries made at Dueñas of Indians who were acquainted with the bird, it would appear that the belt of forest which encircles each of these volcanos between the elevations of 7000 and 11,000 feet above the sea-level is its natural home, where it is constantly resident. The characteristic tree of this forest-region is the celebrated Hand-plant of the Mexicans (*Chirostemon platanoïdes*)—'la Mano del Mico' (the Monkey's Hand) of the Spaniards, which there grows luxuriantly. Whether or not the *Oreophasis* occurs in the volcanos of Atitlan and the Altos, remains yet to be investigated; but, as all these and also the smaller cone of Pacaya present corresponding physical features to those of Agua and Fuego, it is not at all improbable that it may also be found in these mountains.

There appears to be no distinctive name for this bird; among the natives, however, it is known as the Turkey with the red head ('el Pavo con la cabeza colorada').

#### Fam. II. PHASIANIDÆ.

##### 320. MELEAGRIS OCELLATA, Temm. Pl. Col. 112.

This Turkey seems entirely confined in its range to the country included between the base of the Great Cordillera and the Atlantic, of which the promontory of Yucatan occupies the greater portion. From all accounts, the little-known district, of which the Lake of Peten forms the chief feature, is its headquarters; and there it would appear to be of not unfrequent occurrence. It seems almost unknown to the natives of the Republic of Guatemala; but the inhabitants of Belize, who have connection with the mahogany-cuttings, have more or less information respecting it. The Spanish name is 'Pavo real,' or, more properly, 'Pavo real del monte' (Wild Turkey).

#### Fam. III. PERDICIDÆ.

##### 321. ORTYX NIGRIGULARIS, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 4. Yucatan (Cabot): pine-ridges of Belize (Leyland).

322. *ORTYX LEYLANDI*, Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 62.  
Honduras between Omoa and Comayagua (Leyland).
323. *CYRTONYX OCELLATUS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 8.  
Guatemala (Gould).
324. *DENDRORTYX LEUCOPHRYS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 21.  
Received direct from Coban (Gould).
325. *ODONTOPHORUS GUTTATUS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 28.  
Obtained by Mr. Dyson in the Coban palm-ridges, and in  
Yucatan.

Fam. IV. *TINAMIDÆ*.

326. *TINAMUS MAJOR*, Gm. ? : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63.  
Belize and Omoa (Leyland).
327. *TINAMUS CINNAMOMEUS* (Less.) : R. Z. 1842, p. 210.  
Vicinity of La Union, S. Salvador (Lesson).

Ordo VI. *GRALLÆ*.Fam. I. *ARDEIDÆ*.

328. *GARZETTA CANDIDISSIMA* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 665.  
(N. A.)

Common on the Atlantic coast, and sometimes visits the Lake of Dueñas. Generally seen in companies.

329. *HERODIAS EGRETTEA* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 666. (N. A.)  
Also common, but more solitary in its habits, both on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

330. *ARDEA HERODIAS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

Occurs at Dueñas ; seen fishing in the river Guacalate.

331. *FLORIDA CÆRULEA* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 671 ; P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63. (N. A.)

Specimens transmitted by Mr. Skinner are labelled "Coban." Leyland found it common near Omoa.

332. *TIGRISOMA TIGRINUM* (Gm.).

Obtained at Tigré Island, on the Pacific coast of Honduras, by Mr. G. C. Taylor.

## 333. BUTORIDES VIRESCENS (Linn.). (N. A.)

Quite common on all the rivers on the coast among the mangrove swamps.

## 334. NYCTICORAX GARDENI (Gm.). (N. A.)

A young bird of this species has been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Omoa and Peten (Leyland).

## Fam. II. ARAMIDÆ.

335. ARAMUS HOLOSTICTUS (Cab.), Journ. f. Orn. 1856, p. 426. *A. scolopaceus*?, Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. Belize and Omoa (Leyland).

## Fam. III. CANCROMIDÆ.

## 336. CANCROMA COCHLEARIA, Linn.

Occurs in the forest-swamps on the Pacific coast not uncommonly. Skins have also been transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Atlantic coast-region.

## Fam. IV. EURYPYGIDÆ.

## 337. EURYPYGA HELIAS (Pall.).

Mr. Skinner has transmitted skins of this bird, which seem quite identical with S. American specimens.

## Fam. V. TANTALIDÆ.

## 338. TANTALUS LOCULATOR, Linn. (N. A.)

This bird is not uncommonly seen about the large rivers in the forests of the Pacific coast-region. It is known by the Spanish name '*Acatras*.'

## Fam. VI. CHARADRIIDÆ.

## 339. CHARADRIUS VIRGINICUS, Borck. (N. A.)

About the second week in April, a few of these birds made their appearance at Dueñas in the open pasture land. They were always found in company with a flock of Bartram's Sandpiper.

## 340. ÆGIALITIS VOCIFERUS (Linn.). (N. A.)

During the winter months a flock of these Plovers frequent

the open land near Dueñas, sometimes feeding in the Cochineal plantations between the rows of Nopal. Omoa (Leyland).

341. *HOPLOPTERUS CAYANUS* (Lath.) : Moore in P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63.

Honduras (Leyland).

Fam. VII. *HÆMATOPODIDÆ*.

342. *HÆMATOPUS PALLIATUS*, Temm. (N. A.)

Oyster-catchers were seen at the mouth of the Nagualate on the Pacific, probably referable to this species.

Fam. VIII. *RECURVIROSTRIDÆ*.

343. *HIMANTOPUS NIGRICOLLIS*, Vieill. (N. A.)

A specimen of this bird is in the collection of Don Vicente Constancia of La Antigua Guatemala ; procured near the modern city.

Fam. IX. *SCOLOPACIDÆ*.

344. *GALLINAGO*\* ——— ? ———

This seems to be the common Snipe of Guatemala, and, like the rest of its genus, frequents the swampy spots, and especially the pools formed during the rainy season. It is very abundant in the months of October and November about the plateau on which the city of Guatemala stands. At Dueñas it occurs in considerable numbers in February and March, about the narrow belt of swampy land that surrounds the lake on nearly all sides. When put up, they seldom fly far, but alight again 50 or 100 yards off. They are by no means shy, but admit of one approaching to within easy shooting-distance before taking wing.

On excellent authority it is stated that in this same locality there occurs, but very rarely, a dark-coloured Snipe resembling the present bird in all respects but colour. Can this be the *G. sabini* of this species ?

345. *GALLINAGO WILSONI*, Bp. : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. (N. A.)

Common at Omoa (Leyland).

\* We have not yet been able to identify this Snipe, which appears certainly distinct from *G. wilsoni*.

346. *TRINGA MACULATA*, Vieill. : Baird's Rep. p. 720. (N. A.)

About the beginning of April, and towards the end of the dry season, a great part of the stream is diverted from the river Guacalate, and thrown on the open pasture-land near Dueñas. During this period numbers of *Scolopacidæ* frequent the inundated part, of which *Tringa maculata* is the most abundant. At this season this bird, taking its food from fresh water, proves excellent eating.

347. *TRINGA WILSONII*, Nuttall : Baird's Rep. p. 721. (N. A.)

About the mouth of the river Nagualate, on the shore of the Pacific, this bird occurs in some numbers in the month of March.

348. *CALIDRIS ARENARIA* (Linn.). (N. A.)

Like the last, occurs on the Pacific, where it is abundant in some parts.

349. *EREUNETES PETRIFICATUS*, Ill. *Tringa semipalmata*, Wils. : Baird's Rep. p. 724. (N. A.)

A single bird of this species was shot near Dueñas in the month of April, from amongst a flock of *Tringa pectoralis*.

350. *MICROPALAMA HIMANTOPUS* (Bp.) : Baird's Rep. p. 726. (N. A.)

One individual, the only one seen, was shot, like the last, from amongst a flock of *Tringa pectoralis* in April.

351. *GAMBETTA MELANOLEUCA* (Gm.) : Baird's Rep. p. 731. (N. A.)

This species seems more solitary in its habits than many of the other Sandpipers. Seldom more than one individual is seen at once; it also prefers the lake-sides to the marshy resort of the other species.

352. *GAMBETTA FLAVIPES* (Gm.) : Baird's Rep. p. 732. (N. A.)

A small flock of these birds used to be in company with the *Tringa pectoralis* at Dueñas during the early part of the month of April.

353. *RHYACOPHILUS SOLITARIUS* (Wils.) : Baird's Rep. p. 733. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

354. *TRINGOIDES MACULARIUS* (Linn.) : Baird's Rep. p. 735. (N. A.)

About most of the rivers this species is to be met with during the winter months; but they are principally in the unspotted, immature state of plumage. Their range is wide, and includes both the table-land and the coast country.

355. *LIMOSA FEDOA* (Linn.) : Baird's Rep. p. 740; P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. (N. A.)

Common at Belize, according to Leyland.

356. *ACTITURUS BARTRAMIUS* (Wils.) : Baird's Rep. p. 737. (N. A.)

A flock consisting of about eighteen or twenty members arrive about the beginning of April at Dueñas. There seeking the dry open savannahs rather than the marshy pools, they fully justify the appellation of the Field-Plover. To the *Charadriidæ* their actions and habits closely assimilate them.

#### Fam. X. RALLIDÆ.

##### Subfam. RALLINÆ.

357. *PORZANA CAROLINA* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 749. (N. A.)

This Rail is the only one occurring about the Lake of Dueñas, where it would appear to be migratory, leaving that district on the approach of summer.

Mr. Skinner has also transmitted specimens from the Vera Paz.

358. *CORETHRURA CAYENNENSIS*, Gm. (?) : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64.

Omoa (Leyland).

359. *ARAMIDES CAYENNENSIS* (Gm.) : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64.

Omoa; not common (Leyland).

##### Subfam. FULICINÆ.

360. *PORPHYRIO MARTINICA*, Linn. : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64; Baird, Rep. p. 753. (N. A.)

Lagoons near Peten (Leyland).

361. *FULICA AMERICANA* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 751. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Coots are abundant on the

Lake of Dueñas ; but, as specimens have not been collected, they cannot be referred with certainty to this species.

Subfam. PARRINÆ.

362. PARRA GYMNSTOMA, Wagler. *Parra cordifera*, Less. : Des Murs, Icon. Orn. pl. 42.

Very common at Belize and Peten ; less so at Omoa (Leyland). Observed by Salvin in the Pacific coast-region near Santana Mixtan, and obtained by Capt. C. L. Wyke on the Lake of Amatitlan in the central region.

Ordo VII. ANSERES.

Fam. I. ANATIDÆ.

363. DENDROCYGNA AUTUMNALIS (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 770. (N. A.)

Shot by Mr. G. C. Taylor on the Lake of Yojoa, Honduras.

364. DAFILA ACUTA (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 776. (N. A.)

Seen at Belize in December, and common, during the winter, on the Lake of Dueñas. It departs northward in March.

365. QUERQUEDULA CAROLINENSIS (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 777. (N. A.)

Aloor River, Honduras (Leyland).

366. QUERQUEDULA DISCORS (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 779. (N. A.)

Common in winter on the Lake of Dueñas, but disappears in March. Also seen at Santana Mixtan, Pacific coast-region.

367. SPATULA CLYPEATA (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 781. (N. A.)

Like the two preceding, inhabits the Lake of Dueñas during the winter, and departs towards the end of March.

368. MARECA AMERICANA (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 783. (N. A.)

Common on the Lake of Atitlan, where it was seen in May 1858, and also observed near the village of Laguna, about a day's journey from Guatemala.

369. FULIGULA AFFINIS, Eyton : Baird, Rep. p. 791. (N. A.)

Excessively abundant on the Lake of Dueñas in the winter

months, and seen on the Lake Atitlan as late as the month of May.

370. *CAIRINA MOSCHATA* (Linn.).

All the domestic varieties in Central America seem to derive their origin from this species. It is found abundantly on both coasts, frequenting the forest swamps. At Belize it is a well-known bird, as the nature of that district is well adapted to its habits. In the Pacific coast-region it is more local, as the swamps are much more limited, and are of comparatively small extent. The bird is more frequently seen sitting on a branch of a tree than in any other position. During the day-time it remains in the forest; but towards evening it seeks the fields of maize, and many may be seen sitting about the surrounding trees, the flock at a distance looking like a troop of Black Vultures (*Cathartes atratus*). Though shy and by no means easy of approach, a sportsman has no difficulty in obtaining two or three birds between sun-down and dark, by hiding up amongst the trees and shooting as the birds fly round over head. The flesh is excellent and very tender. This bird is said to breed in December.

371. *ERISMATURA RUBIDA* (Wils.): Baird, Rep. p. 811. (N. A.)

On the Lake of Dueñas this is the only resident species of Duck. Its numbers diminish during the period of the spring migration, the immature birds at that time probably seeking other quarters. It is a bird more easily procured than any of the other ducks frequenting the lake, as its powers of flight render its escape less easy. Not but that it flies as well as any other when once fairly started; but it finds difficulty in rising from off the water, so much so, that, by sailing down wind towards a bird, it usually admits of approach to within easy shooting-distance. Sometimes, however, it seeks safety by diving; and when such is the case, its powers in this respect are so great that escape is almost certain to ensue. It builds in May, amongst the reeds on the margin of the lake, making a nest of the dead flag with a little down. The eggs are, as might be expected, by analogy with those of the European *Erismatura mersa*, rough in texture, but perhaps hardly in such a degree as



the eggs of that species. They are of a dirty creamy-white colour, and measure, axis 2 inches  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lines, diam. 1 inch 10 lines; but are sometimes rather more elongated, as others measure, axis 2 inches 7 lines, diam. 1 inch  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

## Fam. II. LARIDÆ.

372. CHROICOCEPHALUS ATRICILLA (Linn.): Baird's Rep. p. 850. (N. A.)

Common about Belize, and said to breed in the Keys along the coast.

373. ANOUS STOLIDUS (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 864. (N. A.)  
Observed on the Pacific coast.

## Fam. III. PELECANIDÆ.

374. PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHUS (Gm.): Baird, Rep. p. 868. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner, having been obtained on the Pacific coast.

375. PELECANUS FUSCUS (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 870. (N. A.)  
Seen on the Atlantic coast, and found breeding by Mr. G. C. Taylor in the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific.

376. PHALACROCORAX MEXICANUS (Brandt): Baird, Rep. p. 879. (N. A.)

Lake of Peten (Leyland).

377. SULA FIBER (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 872. (N. A.)

One of these birds came on board the steamer, off the coast of San Salvador.

## Fam. IV. PLOTIDÆ.

378. PLOTUS ANHINGA, Linn.: Baird, Rep. p. 883. (N. A.)  
Found at Lake Peten, by Leyland.

## Fam. V. TACHYPETIDÆ.

379. TACHYPETES AQUILA (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 873. (N. A.)  
Observed on both coasts. Mr. G. C. Taylor obtained eggs of this bird in the Bay of Fonseca in 1858. See P. Z. S. 1858, p. 318, and 'Ibis,' No. II. (*anteà*, p. 150).

## Fam. VI. COLYMBIDÆ.

380. *PODILYMBUS PODICEPS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a resident species at Dueñas. It breeds in May, making a nest amongst the reeds of the lake, consisting of a pile of flags heaped up so as just to raise the edge of the structure above the surface. The eggs are generally half-immersed. They are from two to four in number, and are of a chalky exterior on an under surface of bluish green; they measure, axis 1 inch  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lines, diam. 1 inch 1 line.

381. *PODICEPS* — ?

A small Grebe is common on the Lake of Dueñas; but specimens have not yet been obtained. Its general appearance and habits are much the same as in the European *P. minor*, but it is smaller in size.

## Fam. VII. HELIORNITHIDÆ.

382. *HELIORNIS FULICA*, Bodd.

Inhabits the Pacific coast, being found in the submerged swamps underneath the trees. The only specimen obtained was swimming in the water, near the village of Santana Mixtan.

In concluding our list, we beg to acknowledge the assistance we have received from Mr. Gould in determining the *Trochilidæ*, and from Mr. Gurney in making out the species of *Accipitres*. Although we have enumerated 382 birds as occurring in Central America, the catalogue is still in many particulars very incomplete, and we have no doubt that future researches will make great additions to it.

XXIV.—*List of a Collection of Birds from the colony of Natal in South-eastern Africa.* By J. H. GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

(Plate VII.)

THE following is a list of a series of Birds of Prey, Goatsuckers, Kingfishers, Cuckoos, and Water-birds recently received by me from the colony of Natal, to which I have added the names of a few species belonging to the same groups from two other collections made in the same country.