

of value as showing that the so-called *Conurus gundlachi* from Mona is inseparable from the San Domingo species.

He found the Tropic Bird (*Phaëton flavirostris*) and the Gannet (*Sula sula*) abundant and breeding there in February. Two specimens of *Agelaius xanthomus*, evidently stragglers from Porto Rico, also were obtained on Mona.

From Porto Rico Mr. Brown sent me a number of interesting species although no novelties were among the number. Besides many of the common North American migrants the collection contained specimens of *Contopus blancoi*, *Habropygia melpoda*, *Sporadinus maugæi* Aud., *Agelaius xanthomus*, as well as the common Porto Rico species of *Icterus*, *Cæreba*, *Centurus*, *Spindalis*, etc.

LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

BY H. P. ATTWATER.

ALTHOUGH a number of eastern and western forms, with numerous intermediate examples, pass here together in the spring migration, San Antonio may be said to be on a dividing line, between not only many eastern and western, but also northern and southern, birds, the extreme limits of whose breeding ranges seem to meet here. So clear is this line in some instances, that birds found common and nesting a few miles west and north of the city, among the hills, would be 'rare finds' on the east side or south of it, in the more level country, and *vice versa*.

The city of San Antonio (lat. 29° 27') lies at the foot of an abrupt elevation — the first range of hills met with coming north from the Gulf of Mexico, or west from the Mississippi River. This range extends westward to the Rio Grande, and northward through the State. The city is six hundred feet above sea level, with a gradual slope for one hundred and fifty miles thence south to the Gulf, the elevation rising suddenly to sixteen hundred feet only thirty miles north and west of the city.

The San Antonio River rises in the hills about two miles north of the city, flowing south through the county. Fifteen miles from the city it is joined by the Medina River, running in from the northwest.

The timber growing along these river bottoms consists principally of pecan, cottonwood, hackberry and willows, with some scattered elms, boxwood, mulberries and cypress trees. Quite a variety of trees of smaller growth are also found, and the whole is often matted together with a tangled growth of vines and creepers. On the higher lands away from the rivers, the prevailing growth is mesquite and live oak, interspersed with patches of huisache, 'thorny brush', and 'prickly pear' or cactus, forming the growth so well known as 'chaparral.' San Antonio is just north of the thick chaparral region, for though these stunted growths occur north of this point, it is only in scattered groups and isolated areas. In the southern part of the county there is a large sandy region covered with black oak and hickory trees. The growth on the hills and rocky country consists largely of dwarf live oaks and another smaller kind of oak. It is worthy of mention, that the greater portion of the vast region to the south of San Antonio, now covered by mesquite and chaparral, was open prairie fifteen or twenty years ago.

The present list is the result of observations taken during the spring migrations and the summers of 1884, 1885, 1889, 1890 and 1891. I have not had opportunity for paying close attention to birds during the fall migrations, nor until January of each year. There are some marshes and lagoons in some parts of the county, but as I have only been able to pay occasional visits to these places, I have probably missed some waders and other water birds which undoubtedly occur at these localities. At one of the artificial lakes, on the west side of the city, some Grebes are common in winter and made their nests in 1889 and 1890, but not being allowed to shoot them, I was unable to identify them. Last spring I obtained permission to procure specimens, but found none nesting there; I think they left on account of their nests being destroyed by boys during the previous two years. I have also seen Gulls, Terns, Sandpipers, etc., around these lakes, but for the reason stated was unable to procure specimens.

There is a collection of stuffed birds at Boerne in Kendall County, thirty miles northwest of San Antonio, belonging to

Wm. Kuhlman, Esq., which contains the following birds which I have not observed myself in this region:— *Sialia arctica*, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, *Corvus americanus*, and *Cyanocitta cristata*. In that county Prairie Chickens are occasionally seen, but they are not known to occur in Bexar County, nor have I heard of them in the country between San Antonio and the Gulf.

A specimen of Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amœna*) was shown me by Mr. George W. Marnock at Helotes, eighteen miles west of San Antonio, which he obtained there, but I have not come across this bird myself.

I hear of some Quail being shot from time to time in the hilly country twenty miles west of San Antonio, which, from the description given, I have no doubt are the Massena Partridge (*Cyrtonyx montezumæ*).

Passer domesticus is unknown as a resident in San Antonio or any of the surrounding country.

All specimens about which there was any doubt were sent to Dr. C. Hart Merriam of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, who informed me that they were identified by Mr. Robert Ridgway of the Smithsonian Institution. To these gentlemen I am greatly indebted for much time and trouble taken in examining and naming my birds. Mr. George B. Sennett and Mr. Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, have also given me valuable assistance in the pursuit of my investigations. To my good friends, Mr. Gustave Toudouze and Mr. John Watson of the Medina River, I am especially indebted for a thousand services cheerfully rendered; also to Mr. John A. Morden of Hyde Park, Ontario, who was my companion in 1884, and who kindly sent me specimens from his collection, without which I could not have completed this list.

1. *Anhinga anhinga*. ANHINGA. — Rare summer resident.
2. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER. — Rare migrant.
3. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD. — Abundant migrant; common in winter.
4. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK. — Migrant, not common.
5. *Anas strepera*. GADWALL. — Common migrant.
6. *Anas americana*. BALDPATE. — Tolerably common migrant.
7. *Anas carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL. — Abundant migrant.
8. *Anas discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL. — Abundant migrant and rare summer resident; breeds at the West End Lake, one mile west of the city.

9. *Anas cyanoptera*. CINNAMON TEAL. — Rare migrant.
10. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER. — Common migrant.
11. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL. — Common migrant.
12. *Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK. — Rare summer resident.
13. *Aythya americana*. REDHEAD. — Common migrant.
14. *Aythya vallisneria*. CANVASBACK. — Tolerably common migrant.
15. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK. — Rare migrant.
16. *Aythya collaris*. RING-NECKED DUCK. — Tolerably common migrant.
17. *Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLEHEAD. — Rare migrant.
18. *Chen hyperborea*. LESSER SNOW GOOSE. — Common migrant.
Called 'Brant' by the hunters and sportsmen.
19. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE. — Common migrant.
20. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN. — Tolerably common migrant.
21. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON. — Common migrant.
22. *Ardea cœrulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON. — Common fall visitor (young birds).
23. *Ardea virescens*. GREEN HERON. — Tolerably common summer resident.
24. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Rare migrant.
25. *Nycticorax violaceus*. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Rare migrant.
26. *Grus mexicana*. SANDHILL CRANE. — Abundant migrant.
27. *Porzana carolina*. SORA. — Common migrant.
28. *Ionornis martinica*. PURPLE GALLINULE. — Rare migrant.
29. *Gallinula galeata*. FLORIDA GALLINULE. — Tolerably common migrant; probably winters here.
30. *Fulica americana*. AMERICAN COOT. — Common migrant and rare summer resident, nesting in the ornamental lakes west of the city.
31. *Recurvirostra americana*. AMERICAN AVOCET. — Rare migrant.
32. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIBE. — Common migrant.
33. *Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER. — Rare migrant.
34. *Tringa maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER. — Common migrant.
35. *Tringa minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER. — Common migrant.
36. *Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOWLEGS. — Common migrant.
37. *Totanus flavipes*. YELLOWLEGS. — Common migrant.
38. *Totanus solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER. — Common migrant.
39. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER. — Abundant migrant.
40. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — Common migrant.
41. *Numenius longirostris*. LONG-BILLED CURLEW. — Common migrant.
42. *Charadrius dominicus*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. — Rare migrant.

43. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER. — Common resident.
44. *Colinus virginianus texanus*. TEXAN BOBWHITE — Abundant resident.
45. *Callipepla squamata castaneogastris*. CHESTNUT-BELLIED SCALED PARTRIDGE. — Common in several localities in the southern part of the county, commencing fifteen miles southwest of San Antonio, which is about their northern limit in this region.
46. *Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*. MEXICAN TURKEY. — Common resident in suitable localities, but much less numerous than formerly. I refer these birds to this species on the authority of Mr. Morden, who was well acquainted with the northern form.*
47. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE. — Common summer resident; not so numerous in the middle of winter, but particularly abundant during migrations.
48. *Melopelia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED DOVE. — Rare summer visitor, and probably breeds.
49. *Columbigallina passerina*. GROUND DOVE. — Occasionally noticed in winter round the camp yards and ranches.
50. *Scardafella inca*. INCA DOVE. — In the month of April, 1891, my attention was called to a strange Dove, which was frequently seen on one of the streets in the city. I got quite close to it on several occasions, but could not shoot at it. When Mr. Frank M. Chapman called to see me, I mentioned the circumstance to him, and asked him to send me a specimen of *S. inca* to compare with it, which he kindly did on his return. By this the live bird was easily identified. It stayed around for some weeks, but disappeared some time late in May.
51. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE. — Common resident.
52. *Catharista atrata*. BLACK VULTURE. — Common resident.
53. *Elanoides forficatus*. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. — Tolerably common summer resident. They breed on the Medina River in the tallest cottonwood and pecan trees.
54. *Elanus leucurus*. WHITE-TAILED KITE. — Rare, in the fall and early part of the winter.
55. *Ictinia mississippiensis*. MISSISSIPPI KITE. — Occasionally seen during migrations.
56. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK. — Abundant in winter. It is probable that some stay all summer and may breed not far from this point, as I have noticed them occasionally in the summer months.
57. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Common during fall and winter months.
58. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK. — Rare in winter.
59. *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*. HARRIS'S HAWK. — Common resident.

* [This is probably Mr. Sennett's *M. g. ellioti*, described in the last number of 'The Auk' (Vol. IX, p. 167), as evidence of its occurrence in Cooke County, Texas, has recently been received through specimens sent for examination by Mr. George H. Ragsdale. — J. A. ALLEN.]

60. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK. — Common resident.
61. *Buteo lineatus alleni*. FLORIDA RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. — Common resident. The birds I sent to Washington were said to be intermediate between *alleni* and *B. l. elegans*.
62. *Buteo swainsoni*. SWAINSON'S HAWK. — Rare winter resident.
63. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. DUCK HAWK. — Rare in winter.
64. *Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. — Common winter resident.
65. *Polyborus cheriway*. AUDUBON'S CARACARA. — Common resident. An unusually early breeding record was January 30, 1890, when a nest was found with three eggs ready to hatch.
66. *Strix pratincola*. AMERICAN BARN OWL. — Common resident.
67. *Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. — Rare migrant.
68. *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL. — Rare migrant. On two occasions I have observed these birds in small flocks on their way north in the spring. On March 1, 1890, I came across about half a dozen among some brush heaps where land had been cleared on a hill near the city. The position was very much exposed, and there had been hard frosts during the two previous nights. On March 18, 1891, while passing over the same ground, my attention was attracted by the cries of two Red-shouldered Hawks, and, making my way to the place, I started three or four Short-eared Owls. One in particular mounted in the air to a great height, followed by the Hawks, and in the fierce attack which followed it held its own bravely for some time till they finally appeared tired of the fight and flew away.
69. *Syrnium nebulosum alleni*. FLORIDA BARRED OWL. — Common resident.
70. *Megascops asio mcallii*. TEXAN SCREECH OWL. — Common resident. Red phase of plumage not noticed.
71. *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. WESTERN HORNED OWL. — Common resident. In 1890 a number of nests and eggs were taken in the latter part of December.
72. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. BURROWING OWL. — Tolerably common resident.
73. *Geococcyx californianus*. ROADRUNNER. — Common resident.
74. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. — Common summer resident. In 1884 I found a Dickcissel's nest which contained five eggs and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg. The next year some boys brought me three Black-throated Sparrow's eggs and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo's, from the same field, which they said they found all together in one nest.
75. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER. — Common migrant, no doubt breeds along the streams in the hills, as I noticed it there on June 6, 1890.
76. *Ceryle cabanisi*. TEXAN KINGFISHER. — Tolerably common resident.
77. *Dryobates scalaris bairdi*. BAIRD'S WOODPECKER. — Common resident.

78. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Common migrant.

79. *Melanerpes aurifrons*. GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER.—Common resident.

80. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.—Common migrant and winter resident, but more numerous during migrations.

81. *Colaptes cafer*. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.—Common migrant. Typical specimens are rare, but a number of intermediate shades, between *cafer* and *auratus* occur, and have been observed migrating together with typical birds. The bulk of *auratus* departs before the others. These birds are fond of ants; the crop of one specimen I examined contained hundreds of them.

82. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Common summer resident.

83. *Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIPPOORWILL.—Rare migrant.

84. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli*. POORWILL.—Common summer resident.

85. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus*. FROSTED POORWILL.—Rare migrant. The earliest record of its appearance in 1891 was March 18.

86. *Chordeiles virginianus henryi*. WESTERN NIGHTHAWK.—Abundant migrant, and common summer resident. My series of specimens shows three color forms of this species, viz., the red, the intermediate, and the lighter or frosted form. *C. texensis* probably occurs, but I have not yet been able to add it to my collection.

87. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Rare migrant.

88. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common migrant.

89. *Trochilus alexandri*. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common summer resident.

90. *Milvulus forficatus*. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—Abundant summer resident.

The regularity with which the summer residents of this locality appear each season is worthy of mention. The state of the weather does not seem to affect these birds in their movements nearly as much as it does those which simply pass through as migrants. During a very dry spring the scarcity of the latter is very noticeable, and not only is their number greatly diminished, but they hurry through on their journey many of them being noticed only for a day or two, while during a wet spring they are much more abundant and stay longer. Particularly is this the case in regard to the Warbler family. The seasons of 1890 and 1891 are good examples of the two extremes. Heavy rains during the early spring of 1890 brought the bulk of Warblers, etc., from two to three weeks earlier than in 1891, and from the 16th to the 24th of April was the height of the migration. The corresponding period in 1891 (which was an unusually dry season) was from May 12, to May 15. The case of the Hooded Warbler will serve for an illustration. In 1890 they first appeared on March 31, were common the next day, and were gone by April 25, while in 1891 they were not noticed at all till May

12, more than two weeks after the last had left in 1890, and very few were observed.

The case, however, is different with the summer residents. Wet or dry, cold or hot, they appear each year, with surprising regularity, almost to a day. Among the best timekeepers should be mentioned the Orchard Oriole, Bell's Vireo and the Painted Bunting, but not one of them can compare with the daring, rollicking, noisy, fighting Scissor-tail Flycatcher. You may count on seeing him first on the 20th of March, and within a day or two he is everywhere, quarreling with the Mockingbirds, who seem to take delight in annoying him, by imitating not only his notes but his actions. The following record of the first appearance of the Scissor-tail is copied from my note book: 1885, March 19; 1889, March 20; 1890, March 20; 1891, March 21.

91. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.—Rare migrant.

92. *Tyrannus verticalis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—Rare migrant. April 30, 1890, is the only record for this bird, but I have observed birds at a distance, which I took to be this species, but which I was unable to procure.

93. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Common migrant; a few remain to breed.

94. *Myiarchus cinerascens*. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER.—Common summer resident.

In the notes I sent to Prof. W. W. Cooke, when he was preparing his report on 'Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley,' 1884 and 1885, I gave the Mexican Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus mexicanus*) as a summer resident at San Antonio. This was a mistake. The Mexican Crested Flycatcher does not occur anywhere in the vicinity of this place. The error occurred through my not sending my birds to Professor Cooke for examination, and was the fault of those who undertook to identify them.

95. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE. Common winter resident, and abundant during migration. I also found them nesting in the caves along the mountain streams in the hilly country west of San Antonio.

96. *Sayornis saya*. SAY'S PHŒBE. Rare migrant.

97. *Contopus borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Rare migrant.

98. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE.—Common migrant and rare summer resident.

99. *Contopus richardsonii*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Common migrant.

100. *Empidonax flaviventris*. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—Rare migrant.

101. *Empidonax acadicus*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Common migrant, and summer resident.

102. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Common migrant, much more numerous among the hills than south of San Antonio. I have never found *E. p. traillii* in this region, though I have looked carefully for it, and if it occurs it must be a rare bird.

103. *Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus*. VERMILION FLYCATCHER.—Common summer resident in a locality south and southwest of San

Antonio, but noticed nowhere else in the surrounding country. Their headquarters appear to be about ten miles southwest of the city, where I found them common and nesting. They must arrive very early, as they were observed the first week in February and I took a nest with three eggs ready to hatch on April 15, 1889. It was placed on the horizontal limb of a mesquite tree, seven feet from the ground, and was similar in appearance to the nest of the Wood Pewee. The particular locality in which they are found is apparently similar to hundreds of square miles of the adjacent region, but I have never met with them in any other place.

104. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—Common winter resident.

105. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD.—Abundant migrant and common winter resident. Wishing to settle the point, as far as this locality was concerned, as to whether any examples of true *ater* remained to breed, I selected three specimens which I have reason to think were breeding birds and sent them to Dr. Merriam, with the following result: No. 1, ♂, May 2, marked intermediate; No. 2, ♂, May 8, intermediate but nearer *M. ater*; No. 3, ♂, May 9, typical *M. ater*.

I have frequently found Cowbirds' eggs as large as those taken in the North.

106. *Molothrus ater obscurus*. DWARF COWBIRD.—Abundant resident. The nest of Bell's Vireo is usually selected to deposit their eggs in, it being a rare occurrence to find a Bell's Vireo's nest that does not contain one or more Dwarf Cowbird's eggs. In one case a nest of this Vireo in a thorn bush contained four Cowbird's eggs, with three others lying on the ground three feet below.

107. *Callothrus robustus*. BRONZED COWBIRD. Rare summer resident. Several of these birds were noticed around some of the stock yards in the city, but I could not shoot at them; consequently I was much pleased to obtain a nest of Bullock's Oriole near one of the yards, which, in addition to five eggs belonging to the Oriole, also contained one of this species. The egg was sent to Washington and fully identified.

108. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—Common migrant.

109. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Abundant migrant, and common winter and summer resident. Although it is not as numerous in summer as in winter, a few remain to breed.

110. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK.—Rare summer resident. I have no records of this bird in the migrations, nor have I ever observed it in winter. After all the Western Larks have gone north in the spring, I find a few Eastern Larks breeding in some hay meadows a few miles west of the city.

111. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—Abundant migrant, and common winter resident. In the spring they commit great depredations in the corn fields, pulling up the young corn. A great many are destroyed at this time by scattering poisoned grain over the fields.

112. *Icterus audubonii*. AUDUBON'S ORIOLE.—This species may perhaps most properly be described as a *rare winter wanderer*. I first observed it on March 27, 1890, when I secured a fine male among the tall pecan timber on the San Antonio River just south of the city. I was attracted by the bird's note. I did not observe it again till 1891, when I obtained three specimens out of a flock of about eight or ten at the same place on February 13. The next day they were all gone, and I have never come across any since. Mr. Toudouze described some birds, which were new to him, and which he noticed on the Medina River about the same time, which from his description were no doubt this species.

113. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Abundant summer resident.

114. *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.—Common summer resident.

115. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. — Common migrant and winter resident. It is possible that some do not go far north to breed, as I have observed them in the latter part of April at a ranch on the hills twenty miles west of San Antonio, but I have never found any nest.

116. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE. — Abundant migrant and common summer resident, breeding in colonies among the huisache trees in the city. They do not remain all winter, but appear first about the end of January or early in February.

117. *Quiscalus macrourus*. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE. — Common summer resident. A few remain all winter around the irrigating ditches in the market gardens of the city.

(To be concluded.)

SOME NOTES CONCERNING THE EVENING GROSB BEAK.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

THE EVENING GROSB^EAK is pre-eminently and typically a bird of the coniferous forests of the Northwest. The first specimen known was taken by Schoolcraft in 1823 near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, from which William Cooper described the species in the Ann. N. Y. Lyc. N. H., Jan. 10, 1825. Bonaparte figured it in 1828, and noted two other specimens that had been taken near Lake Athabasca. Sir John Richardson refers to specimens from Carlton House, British America.