

BIRDS OF THE BROWNSVILLE REGION,
SOUTHERN TEXAS.

BY LUDLOW GRISCOM AND MAUNSELL S. CROSBY.

(Continued from p. 440.)

1. **Colymbus dominicus brachypterus.** MEXICAN GREBE.—A fairly common summer resident, rare or casual in winter. Spring arrival date March 19, 1891. The latest fall dates are Nov. 24, 1911, and Dec. 26, 1911. We have seen specimens taken Jan. 14 (or 24?), 1881 at Lomita, and Feb. 1, 1880 at Lomita. A nesting date is May 16, 1877 (Merrill). It is found throughout the area, even in small ponds near Brownsville, but we have no record of its occurring on salt water.

2. **Podilymbus podiceps.** PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Merrill states that it occurs in winter, and we found it in all the fresh and brackish water visited. It was particularly common, however, and characteristic of the prairie ponds north of Harlingen. Bent discovered this species breeding fairly commonly with the Mexican Grebe about Brownsville, and found a nest on May 23, 1923. It was also found in summer by de Laubenfels.

3. **Larus argentatus.** HERRING GULL. An uncommon winter visitant to the Laguna Madre (Merrill, Griscom and Crosby). Merrill shot a specimen near Fort Brown, March 3, 1877. We have no satisfactory arrival or departure dates.

4. **Larus delawarensis.** RING-BILLED GULL.—A fairly common winter visitant on the Laguna Madre (Merrill, Griscom and Crosby). Smith collected several specimens, and there are two in the Sennett Collection, but we have no good migration dates.

5. **Larus atricilla.** LAUGHING GULL.—Formerly a very common summer resident, wintering in numbers, and breeding on the islands in the Laguna Madre and the salt prairies. Now greatly reduced in numbers, but still nesting commonly; comparatively few birds present in winter. There are no records away from salt water.

6. **Larus franklini.** FRANKLIN'S GULL.—This Gull has been found to be a common transient near Corpus Christi, but there are comparatively few records for the Brownsville region. We have seen 4 specimens taken Oct. 21, 1908, Nov. 10, 1909 and April 23, 1912.

7. **Gelochelidon nilotica.** GULL-BILLED TERN.—Still a fairly common permanent resident; a large breeding colony at Bahia Grande. In reduced numbers in winter, but always present. It is the only Tern really common away from the larger bodies of salt water, and is constantly hawking over the coastal prairies.

8. **Sterna caspia imperator.** COUES' CASPIAN TERN.—A common summer resident, in reduced numbers in winter. A breeding colony at Bahia Grande.

9. ***Sterna maxima***. ROYAL TERN.—Formerly an abundant summer resident, still nesting at Bahia Grande. Perhaps a winter resident, in reduced numbers, but not reported later than Dec. 20, 1921 (Pearson).

10. ***Sterna sandvicensis acuflava***. CABOT'S TERN.—Formerly a common summer resident, still breeding at Bahia Grande, but one of the least common species there (Pemberton). We have no record of its occurrence in winter, but it should be expected at least occasionally. The earliest spring date we have is March 28, 1878 (Sennett), at Corpus Christi, which gives some indication of when it may be expected to arrive.

11. ***Sterna forsteri***. FORSTER'S TERN.—Still a common summer resident, a breeding colony known at Bahia Grande. Of regular occurrence in winter in reduced numbers. As one wanders out over the coast prairies at this season towards the Laguna Madre, the Gull-billed Tern is encountered at the first suggestions of moisture. The next species is Forster's, as soon as lagoons of any size appear. We have examined several specimens taken in winter.

12. ***Sterna hirundo***. COMMON TERN.—Pemberton reports this species as the second commonest Tern at Green Island. No specimens were taken, and due to the ease with which this species can be confused with Forster's Tern in life, this record, which would constitute a notable southward extension of the bird's range, requires confirmation in our opinion. We include it in the list, however, as there is an adult female in the Salvin and Godman Collection taken by Armstrong at Brownsville in May.

13. ***Sterna antillarum***. LEAST TERN.—Formerly an abundant summer resident, breeding not only on the coast but also on the sand-bars of the Rio Grande. A breeding colony still exists at Bahia Grande. Merrill records it as wintering, but there are no recent records at that season. We have seen no specimen taken earlier in the year than April 13 (1894).

14. ***Chlidonias nigra surinamensis***. BLACK TERN.—Probably a regular transient, but there are very few records. Armstrong obtained specimens near Brownsville in May for the Salvin and Godman Collection. Observed in spring from May 9 (1921) (Pemberton) to May 30 (1923) (Bent). Sennett obtained 9 specimens Aug. 13 and 15, 1880, and Smith collected several on Aug. 21, 1911. It should be found much later in the fall. Reported by de Laubenfels as "regular but not very numerous" in the bayous about Brownsville in mid-summer, 1924.

15. ***Rynchops nigra***. BLACK SKIMMER.—A fairly common summer resident; a breeding colony now known at Bahia Grande (Pemberton). We have no record of its occurrence in winter, though it should certainly be found in limited numbers at that season. Our earliest date is March 30, (1894) and the latest is Nov. 24 (1921) (Pearson).

16. ***Anhinga anhinga***. WATER-TURKEY.—Presumably a permanent resident, but we have no records between Dec. 5 (1909) and March 18, (1880). It is reported as rare near the coast, occurring chiefly on the lagoons up the Rio Grande River, where the timber is of larger size.

17. **Phalacrocorax vigua mexicanus.** MEXICAN CORMORANT.—An abundant resident, found throughout the year on all the waters of the region, but breeding only inland in wooded swamps. The tameness of this bird was a perpetual source of surprise to us, and we could have “pot-shot” it on numerous occasions.

18. **Pelecanus erythrorhynchos.** WHITE PELICAN.—An abundant transient and winter resident on all the larger lagoons of the coast. Merrill, nearly 50 years ago, recorded it as present throughout the year, and was convinced that it bred, but found no nests. Pearson found it nesting, however, on Little Bird Island, just north of our region, in May, 1920; so that it may yet be found breeding further south. As a summer resident, it would seem to be irregular, as Cahn found no traces of it on Little Bird Island in 1921. Pearson saw 30 near Green Island on June 3, 1920, and there is a specimen in the Sennett Collection taken Aug. 19, 1880, at Lomita. Whether the latter is a genuine fall arrival date or not remains to be definitely determined.

19. **Pelecanus occidentalis.** BROWN PELICAN.—Common throughout the year on the Laguna Madre and the coast, but confined to salt-water, and does not occur on the smaller brackish lagoons, where the White Pelican is perfectly at home. Formerly it bred abundantly in our region, but at the present time no definite nesting colony is known.

20. **Fregata aquila.** MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD.—This bird is apparently an occasional visitant to the coast during the summer months. The only definite record for our area, however, is a specimen taken at Lomita, Aug. 17, 1880, where, of course, its occurrence is purely casual.

21. **Lophodytes cucullatus.** HOODED MERGANSER.—This species is included solely on the authority of Merrill, who states that a few were seen during winter. There is no reason to doubt this record, as it has occurred as far south as southern Mexico.

22. **Anas platyrhynchos.** MALLARD.—Recorded as not uncommon during the winter months by Merrill. We found it generally distributed in the fresh water sloughs in the prairies on the Norias Ranch and in the fresh water ponds near Brownsville, but did not see it at any time on the coast prairies. It was, however, distinctly one of the less common Ducks, and we never saw more than 25 individuals on any one day. We have no arrival or departure dates.

23. **Anas fulvigula maculosa.** MOTTLED DUCK.—Reported by Merrill as not common, a few remaining to breed in the marshes near the coast. Sennett took a specimen at Point Isabel on May 19, 1876, and Smith shot it near Brownsville on March 29, 1912. We saw this species definitely only on the prairies just north of our region, where it was very scarce.

24. **Chaulelasmus streperus.** GADWALL.—Merrill states that the Gadwall was the commonest winter Duck about Brownsville, a few remaining all summer. We found it generally distributed in fresh water, but easily the scarcest of the usual *Anatinae*, and never recorded more than

half a dozen individuals in any one day. The Dwight Collection contains 12 specimens collected by Smith between the dates of Sept. 12, 1911 and April 22, 1912.

25. **Mareca americana.** BALDPATE.—Recorded as common by Merrill, especially in spring and fall. We found the Baldpate only fairly common on the coast prairies and in a large flooded meadow in the interior. In the sloughs on the open prairies of the Norias Ranch only a single bird was seen. Sennett took a specimen April 18, 1877 at Lomita, and Smith shot one Nov. 23, 1911. It undoubtedly arrives at least a month earlier in the fall.

26. **Nettion carolinense.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Reported by Merrill as common, especially on migration. Near Brownsville we found it very scarce and entirely absent from the coast prairies. On the Norias Ranch, however, this Teal was abundant, and every slough in the prairies had its quota. We have no arrival or departure dates.

27. **Querquedula discors.** BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Merrill regarded this species as a common transient arriving early in September, a few remaining during the winter, the majority returning about mid-March. We saw a very few birds in the prairie region in January, 1923, but a flooded meadow in the scrub about 15 miles northwest of Brownsville seemed exactly suited to their requirements. Here they were literally swarming on Jan. 6, and flocks containing many hundred birds were darting over the water at the sound of a gun, and pitching down through the bushes, where they were practically invisible. Observed by Bent near Brownsville May 24, 1923, and Smith shot one on Sept. 25, 1912.

28. **Querquedula cyanoptera.** CINNAMON TEAL.—Reported by Merrill as not rare during migration, more seen in spring than in autumn. Bent has recently mentioned its wintering as far east as Brownsville. Pearson shot one out of a flock of 14 on the Norias Ranch Nov. 30, 1924, and we saw a pair there in a slough on Jan. 9, 1923. There are four specimens in the British Museum taken in January, March and April near Brownsville by Armstrong.

29. **Spatula clypeata.** SHOVELLER.—An abundant winter resident, but rare on the coastal prairies. It has been shot as late as April 26, 1876, and Merrill states that he saw several pairs during the breeding season. We have seen no specimen shot earlier than the end of November. It should arrive the latter part of September.

30. **Dafila acuta.** PINTAIL.—By all odds the most abundant Duck of the region, occurring in almost unbelievable numbers in every type of water. It is at least ten times as common as the Shoveller, and more than one hundred times as common as any other species. Smith collected specimens between Nov. 17, 1911 and April 23, 1912. It arrives much earlier in the fall.

31. **Marila americana.** REDHEAD.—Recorded as not uncommon by Merrill. Pearson reports a large flock in the Laguna Madre near Point Isabel Nov. 23 and 24, 1921. We saw a drake on Jan. 3, 1923 and a flock of 15 the next day near Brownsville.

32. **Marila valisineria.** CANVASBACK.—Recorded by Merrill as “rarer than the Redhead, but few shot.” Specimens in the Sennett Collection were shot near Brownsville March 12, 1889 and April 7, 1890. Pearson reports a pair on the Fort Brown reservation Dec. 21, 1921. We saw a drake at Brownsville on Jan. 8, 1923, and another with Scaup Ducks on the Norias Ranch the next day.

33. **Marila marila.** SCAUP.—Recorded by Merrill as rather rare. We have no other data for the region.

34. **Marila affinis.** LESSER SCAUP.—Decidedly more common than the last (Merrill). There are 13 specimens in the Dwight Collection taken by Smith from Nov. 20, 1911 to April 18, 1912. We found Scaups generally distributed in the area covered, but they were nowhere common. The species was never positively determined, however. De Laubenfels reports a single bird sometime after June 25, 1924.

35. **Marila collaris.** RING-NECKED DUCK.—Known only from the record of Merrill, who killed a few specimens. We found a flock of 6 on the Norias Ranch with Scaups and a Canvasback on Jan. 9, 1923.

36. **Charitonetta albeola.** BUFFLEHEAD.—Reported as rather plentiful by Merrill. Smith took a specimen on Feb. 15, 1912 near Brownsville. There are two adult males in the British Museum taken in March and August near Brownsville by Armstrong. The latter date, if correct, is very remarkable. There are no other records.

37. **Harelda hyemalis.** OLD-SQUAW.—This species was added to the avifauna of the region by Pearson, who found a flock of about a dozen living on a pond near the El Sauz ranch-house east of Norias during December, 1921. Four specimens were shot.

38. **Erismatura jamaicensis.** RUDDY DUCK.—Recorded by Merrill as abundant. Smith took 6 specimens between Nov. 22, 1911 and April 18, 1922. Pearson found this species in several places and shot several. We shot one at Noriagas, and saw a flock of 10 on the Norias Ranch.

39. **Nomonyx dominicus.** MASKED DUCK.—A male, No. 79555, is in the Sennett Collection without a Sennett number. It was taken near Brownsville, July 18, 1891.

40. **Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus.** SNOW GOOSE.—An abundant winter resident, recorded by all observers, characteristic of the coastal prairies. We have seen no specimens. Not reported later than March 29, 1877.

41. **Chen caerulescens.** BLUE GOOSE.—Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson was the first to extend the winter range of this Goose south of Corpus Christi, as he found it on the King Ranch. We found ten associating with a flock of Snow Geese on the Norias Ranch Jan. 9, 1923, and five in a flock of 75 Snow Geese near Point Isabel on Jan. 10. Mr. R. D. Camp, the local game warden, assures us that this species is by no means rare, always associating with its relative.

42. **Anser albifrons gambeli.** WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—A common winter resident. According to Merrill it is the first Goose to return in

autumn, usually about the first week in October, and he reported it as late as April 18. Smith shot a specimen on the exceedingly late date of May 24, 1912. We found it very common on the prairies and surprisingly tame.

43. *Branta canadensis canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—The exact status of the two subspecies of Canada Geese still remains to be determined. Canada Geese of some form are the most abundant members of the group on the King Ranch north of our region. South of the sandhills, however, they decrease rapidly in numbers, and are less common than the Snow and White-fronted Geese. Merrill reports the typical race as not rare, and presumably secured specimens. This is our only definite information.

44. *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*. HUTCHINS' GOOSE.—More abundant than *canadensis*, but less so than *A. gambeli* (Merrill). Smith collected a specimen of this race on Oct. 24, 1912 at Brownsville. We could not, of course, be sure of the subspecies of the Canada Geese we saw, and regard sight records of these two races as unsatisfactory.

45. *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. BLACK-BELLIED TREE DUCK.—A common summer resident, not arriving in numbers until late April, the majority leaving for the south in September and October, a few individuals lingering into November. Extreme dates are April 12 (1902) and Nov. 8, (1880).

46. *Dendrocygna bicolor*. FULVOUS TREE DUCK.—Recorded by Merrill as about as common as the Black-bellied Tree Duck. It still occurs in the great marshes near Point Isabel according to Mr. R. D. Camp. There are two specimens in the Dwight Collection taken Dec. 6, 1893, and Jan. 15, 1890. There are March, April, November and December specimens in the British Museum taken by Armstrong near Brownsville.

47. *Cygnus columbianus*. WHISTLING SWAN.—A specimen was caught in a lagoon near Brownsville in January, 1878, according to Merrill, who states further "either this species or the Trumpeter is said to be not uncommon near the coast during winter." Dresser (1866) states that Swans were not uncommon near Brownsville during the winter, but does not record the species definitely. There are no other reports.

48. *Ajaia ajaja*. ROSEATE SPOONBILL.—A regular and often common summer visitor, its breeding suspected by Merrill, and a colony likely to be discovered at almost any time. Chiefly confined to the coastal salt marshes, but in Sennett's time at least occurred up the Rio Grande River as far as Lomita. Extreme dates are March 23 (1881) to Sept. 27 (1911).

49. *Guara alba*. WHITE IBIS.—Apparently local and uncommon. A permanent resident. Merrill recorded a few at all seasons, and Sennett found a few in a White-faced Glossy Ibis rookery, but obtained no evidence of breeding. We have seen no specimens taken between May 16 and November 1, but there are March and April specimens in the British Museum.

50. *Plegadis guarauna*. WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS.—A permanent

resident, nesting in large colonies, one or two of which still exist. Less common in winter, according to previous authors, but we found flocks in several places, chiefly in the ponds and resacas away from the coast. Both the Sennett and Dwight collections contain specimens taken at various times of the year.

51. **Mycteria americana.** WOOD IBIS.—Status still somewhat uncertain. Apparently an irregular visitor in flocks at any time of the year. No definite evidence of nesting. Merrill saw only one pair on April 10, 1876, near Fort Brown. Sennett records a large flock in mid-May, 1878, at Lomita during a rise in the river, but states that no more were seen later. The Dwight Collection contains an August, a September and a November specimen, taken in different years. We saw a flock of 40 sailing over Fort Brown on Jan. 8, 1923.

52. **Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN.—Apparently a rare transient or winter resident. Merrill states that it occurred in moderate numbers during migration. Sennett records a specimen taken at Lomita in May, which is not in his collection, and there is a specimen in the Dwight Collection taken at Brownsville March 22, 1897. A specimen in the British Museum taken by Armstrong is listed as a July bird, but this is probably an error.

53. **Ixobrychus exilis.** LEAST BITTERN.—Merrill and Sennett found a few pairs in a large heronry near Brownsville on May 16, 1877. They found no nests, but suspected that it bred. Smith collected one on April 11, 1912. There are eight specimens in the British Museum taken by Armstrong near Brownsville in January, April and May. Bent found it breeding commonly in May, 1923.

54. **Ardea herodias herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.—Exact status unknown, but perhaps a rare or casual winter visitor. A young bird in the Dwight Collection taken by Smith on March 21, 1912, must be referred to this subspecies, on the basis of its measurements.

55. **Ardea herodias wardi.** WARD'S HERON.—Presumably an abundant permanent resident, as Dr. H. C. Oberholser in his revision of the species cites Brownsville as part of its breeding range. We have seen no specimens.

56. **Ardea herodias treganzai.** TREGANZA'S HERON.—An accidental visitant from the West. Smith collected a specimen on Feb. 27, 1911, which Dr. Oberholser has identified as belonging to this race, recently admitted to the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (Oberholser, 'A Revision of the Forms of the Great Blue Heron,' Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XLIII, p. 546.)

57. **Casmerodius egretta.** EGRET.—Formerly a common permanent resident, breeding abundantly. Now rare throughout the area. We know of no recent report of more than five individuals seen at any one time.

58. **Egretta candidissima candidissima.** SNOWY EGRET.—Formerly an abundant summer resident, a few wintering. Now rare and local, but decidedly more numerous than the big Egret, and still occurring in winter

in small numbers, as we saw 3 on Jan. 4, 1923, and Pearson has recently obtained breeding evidence.

59. **Dichromanassa rufescens.** REDDISH EGRET.—Still an abundant summer resident near salt water, a colony of "5,000-10,000 birds" on Green Island in the Laguna Madre (Pearson). A very few individuals remain in winter.

60. **Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis.** LOUISIANA HERON.—Still a common summer resident, known definitely to nest on Green Island (Pemberton). Merrill does not record it in winter, but we found small flocks in several different places in January, 1923.

61. **Florida caerulea.** LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Not particularly common permanent resident, and absent or rare on the coastal salt marshes. It is found principally in small flocks up the Rio Grande, in the resacas and interior swamps.

62. **Butorides virescens virescens.** GREEN HERON.—A common summer resident away from the coast. Merrill reports it as rare in winter, and we saw one on Jan. 5, 1923, in a resaca near Brownsville. A specimen collected by Smith on April 8, 1912, is the nearest approximation we have to a spring arrival date.

63. **Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.** BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—A common summer resident, nesting in large rookeries, several of which have been recently located. Of general distribution in winter, but in reduced numbers. Sennett found fully grown young at Lomita on April 23, 1878.

64. **Nyctanassa violacea.** YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Apparently uncommon permanent resident, definite breeding evidence lacking. Merrill calls it rather uncommon. Sennett did not encounter it, but his collection contains July and August specimens from Lomita. The Dwight Collection contains a specimen shot March 10, 1900. We saw five on Jan. 4, 1923, with the other species on the coastal prairies.

65. **Grus americana.** WHOOPING CRANE.—Recorded by Dresser, Merrill and Sennett, at which period it was a not rare winter resident, occurring chiefly on the coastal prairies and always in pairs. The Dwight collection contains specimens taken Dec. 2, 1892, in Hidalgo County, and Feb. 18, 1894, near Brownsville. The last record for our area is one of two birds seen May 6, 1900, on the Rio Colorado by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey. However Pearson found several on the Laureles Ranch some miles north of our area in December, 1921. We found four birds in the same place on Jan. 12, 1923, and Mr. Richard M. Kleberg, the owner, told us there was another flock of five about 20 miles further south.

66. **Grus canadensis.** LITTLE BROWN CRANE.—A winter visitant of uncertain status. There are four specimens in the Dwight Collection. A male was shot near Brownsville Dec. 18, 1890, by James B. Neal, and three specimens collected in "Cameron County" by Armstrong on Nov. 23 and 26, 1912, were probably from our region.

67. **Grus mexicana.** SANDHILL CRANE.—A regular winter visitor

to the coastal prairies, common near Brownsville and increasing northward on parts of the King Ranch where it occurs in large flocks. We have seen no specimens. Dresser records it as early as September in 1863, but we have no departure dates.

68. **Aramus vociferus.** LIMPKIN.—An accidental visitant from the South. One specimen in the Sennett Collection taken May 23, 1889 near Brownsville by Fields and Armstrong. This bird is in any event a different subspecies from the Florida form, but recent revisors radically disagree as to the number and ranges of various proposed forms.

69. **Rallus elegans.** KING RAIL.—Apparently a winter visitant, but whether rare or regular remains to be determined, and not hitherto recorded from further south than Corpus Christi, so far as we know. The Dwight Collection contains three specimens taken by Smith at Brownsville Sept. 27 and Dec. 28, 1911, and Oct. 1, 1912. One in the British Museum was taken by Armstrong on April 2. We saw one near Point Isabel on Jan. 10, 1923, in a fresh water swamp. It was very tame and permitted a near approach.

70. **Porzana carolina.** SORA.—A regular winter visitant, more numerous on migration. Merrill was quite positive that a few nested near Brownsville, but this has never been substantiated, and is highly improbable according to its present known breeding range. Numerous specimens in the Sennett and Dwight Collections show that it is present from Aug. 31 (1912) to May 20 (1889).

71. **Ionornis martinicus.** PURPLE GALLINULE.—First recorded by Merrill, who took young birds scarcely able to fly in September. The Dwight Collection contains two specimens, April 13, 1902, and Aug. 17, 1912. This slender evidence would seem to indicate that this species is a rare and local summer resident.

72. **Gallinula galeata.** FLORIDA GALLINULE.—Found nesting by Merrill and Sennett on May 16, 1877, in the large heronry near Brownsville. Apparently a resident, as Smith obtained it in winter, and we recorded a total of four individuals in January, 1923. These were invariably in clumps of cat-tail in small ponds and resacas. The British Museum Catalogue lists skins taken by Armstrong in March, May, June and September. Bent found two nests near Brownsville May 23, 1923.

73. **Fulica americana.** COOT.—An abundant winter visitant, found wherever there is water, and a summer resident in small numbers. Found nesting in the Brownsville heronry May 16, 1877, by Sennett and Merrill. Every pond and prairie slough in the region was full of Coot during our visit in January, 1923, and it was nothing unusual to see several hundred individuals in the course of a day's tramp.

74. **Steganopus tricolor.** WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Apparently an occasional transient as yet recorded in spring only. We have seen four specimens taken locally, and Mrs. Bailey records it in full breeding plumage on May 8, 1900. Extreme dates, March 25 (1894) to May 25 (1912) all from Brownsville.

75. **Recurvirostra americana.** AVOCET.—Reported by Merrill as common during winter, a few pairs remaining to breed. The species is not given as breeding so far south in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' but Merrill's report is apparently substantiated by Pemberton, who found it breeding at Bahia Grande. Otherwise it is known chiefly as a transient in March. Specimens before us were taken between Feb. 23 (1881), and March 28 (1912). Sennett saw flocks of three or four on March 29, 1877, below Brownsville, but found none on his return on May 20. The Avocet is certainly no longer common in winter in the region.

76. **Himantopus mexicanus.** BLACK-NECKED STILT.—A common permanent resident, in reduced numbers in winter, but generally distributed. We have seen numerous specimens taken locally. A nesting date is May 16, 1877 (Sennett and Merrill).

77. **Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIPE.—A common winter resident, even more abundant during migration according to Merrill. In 1876, he shot the first arrival on Sept. 18, which was said to be a month earlier than normal. The next year the main flight did not occur until Nov. 28. The latest spring date is March 17, 1912, but it should occur much later.

78. **Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus.** LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.—Common transient, regularly wintering, on the mud flats of the coast and the Laguna Madre. All of the numerous specimens examined belong clearly to this subspecies. The earliest fall date is July 18, 1913. There is a specimen in the British Museum taken April 25 by Armstrong.

79. **Micropalama himantopus.** STILT SANDPIPER.—Recorded by Merrill, Oct. 13, 1877. Collected by Smith on April 22, 1912, and from July 8 to Aug. 9, 1913, by Armstrong, who obtained 18 specimens in this period. It will probably be found to be a regular transient. There are four specimens in the British Museum taken in April and May by Armstrong.

80. **Pisobia maculata.** PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—A common transient both spring and fall; extreme dates based on specimens are March 16 (1890), to April 22 (1912), and late July (Merrill) to Oct. 24 (1912). There are May specimens in the British Museum taken by Armstrong.

81. **Pisobia fuscicollis.** WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Probably a regular transient, but data are lacking. Merrill reports it as common in winter, but we cannot accept this statement, as the species is now known to winter only in southern South America. Frazar collected a specimen at Lomita on May 22, 1880. Armstrong shot two specimens in May, now in the British Museum.

82. **Pisobia bairdi.** BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—Probably a regular transient, but dates are lacking. Two females collected by Merrill on March 30, 1876, on a sandbar in the Rio Grande.

83. **Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.—A common winter resident, but we have no arrival date better than Sept. 1, 1912, and no spring departure date later than May 24, 1923 (Bent). We found this

species common on the edges of a flooded pasture in the scrub country north of Brownsville. "Peep" of various kinds are abundant on the coast.

84. ***Pelidna alpina sakhalina***. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—Status imperfectly known, but here at the extreme southern limit of its winter range. Merrill reports it as rather common about the salt lagoons near Point Isabel on May 16, 1877, but Sennett was with him on this day, and does not mention the species in his paper. Smith, however, obtained specimens between Nov. 1 and 15, 1908. There are two specimens in the British Museum taken on May 14 by Armstrong.

85. ***Ereunetes pusillus***. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—A common winter visitant according to Merrill, who does not record *E. mauri*, however, which is apparently the commoner species. Smith has taken one specimen on March 27, 1912, and there is another in the Dwight Collection dated April 14 (no year).

86. ***Ereunetes mauri***. WESTERN SANDPIPER.—Apparently commoner than the preceding. Smith has taken specimens between Oct. 22 (1908), and March 27 (1912), dates which are not at all representative.

87. ***Crocethia alba***. SANDERLING.—Probably a regular winter visitant. Smith took specimens between Oct. 18 and Nov. 2, 1908. Merrill's report does not refer specifically to our region. He records it from Padre Island in July.

88. ***Limosa fedoa***. MARBLED GODWIT.—Dresser (1866) noticed a few Godwits around Brownsville and Matamoros, and shot one. Merrill states that he took it in spring and autumn. There are no specimens in the American Museum, and no recent records.

89. ***Limosa haemastica***. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—Probably even today a regular transient in spring. Armstrong collected a fine series now in the Sanford Collection from May 3 to May 21, 1912, and there are specimens in the British Museum collected by him in April.

90. ***Totanus melanoleucus***. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—Common winter resident, abundant transient. Specimens have been taken between Nov. 22 (1911), and April 15 (1877), dates which are not representative.

91. ***Totanus flavipes***. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—An abundant transient, but less common than the last in winter, according to Merrill. In spite of this record, neither the A. O. U. 'Check-List' nor Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Part VIII, give this species as wintering so far north. We were accordingly interested to confirm Merrill's record in every particular. During our visit in January, 1923, we found the Greater much commoner on the coast in salt water, but on the inland prairies, flooded pastures, etc., the Lesser Yellow-legs was common, and greatly outnumbered its larger relative. We have seen specimens taken between Aug. 18, 1912, and May 24, 1912. Pearson also collected this species in December, 1921.

92. ***Tringa solitaria solitaria***. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Apparently very few records for our region, but will undoubtedly prove to be a regular

transient. It is strange, however, that so keen an observer as Merrill did not meet with it. Dresser (1866) records a pair in mid-August, on a sand-bar in the Rio Grande. We have seen six specimens taken between March 17 (1912) and May 23 (1889). On Jan. 5, 1923, we twice flushed one of these familiar birds from the muddy bank of a resaca near Brownsville, but were unable to collect it. There seems to be no other North American winter record.

93. ***Tringa solitaria cinnamomea***. WESTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Casual transient. A female collected April 20, 1912, by Smith has been referred to this subspecies by Dr. Dwight, an identification with which we concur. This is the first record for Texas so far as we know.

94. ***Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus***. WILLET.—We have had the greatest difficulty in ascertaining the status of the two Willets in our area, and are under great obligations to Dr. Dwight for his critical study of the material in his collection. The A. O. U. 'Check-List' gives the Western Willet as the breeding form on the coast of Texas. Ridgway curiously enough includes both races as breeding. He cites Fort Brown as the only breeding station west of Florida for the Eastern Willet. This statement is based presumably on Merrill's report, which however, is placed doubtfully under the Western in the synonymy. On the basis of the material from south Texas examined by us, we agree with Dr. Dwight that the breeding bird is the Eastern subspecies, and that the Western occurs in migration. We have seen no winter specimens, and cannot, therefore, state the status of the two races at this season. Breeding birds, however, from northeast Texas are apparently Western Willet, and this is the subspecies to which breeding material from Louisiana is unanimously referred, though we have seen none.

The Willet is a common permanent resident in our area. The breeding bird is in our opinion typical *semipalmatus*, and this or the next subspecies is common in winter. A nesting date is May 2, 1877. We have seen seven specimens taken between March 25 (1912) and May 15 (1902).

95. ***Cataphorphus semipalmatus inornatus***. WESTERN WILLET.—Known to us definitely only as a transient, but probably common in winter also. We have seen eight specimens taken from March 20 (1912) to May 15 (1902) and Sept. 22, 1911. Pearson found Willet in several places during December, 1921, which were presumably this subspecies.

96. ***Bartramia longicauda***. UPLAND PLOVER.—Merrill gives a very full account of the occurrence of this species in its former abundance as a transient. It arrived in small flocks about the second or third week in March, and was found abundantly on grassy prairies, lingering until May 10. Late in July a few reappeared, it became abundant about Sept. 1 and disappeared the first week in October. It has greatly decreased in numbers, and Smith obtained no specimens. It still occurs every year according to Mr. R. D. Camp.

97. ***Tryngites subruficollis***. BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER.—A regular transient, occurring on the prairies, similar in habit to the Upland Plover.

Dates before us are April 3 to 30, 1913, and Aug. 4, 1913, to Sept. 26, 1914.

98. **Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—This well-known shore-bird is apparently only a rare winter visitor, judging by the few records, but this is undoubtedly due to lack of observation. It should prove to be a common and regular transient, occasional in winter, as it winters commonly throughout Central America. Merrill reports it as rare in winter and Mrs. Bailey noted it on the Rio Colorado in the spring of 1900. Smith collected a specimen on Nov. 6, 1909. We saw one in one of the resacas near Brownsville on Jan. 4, 1923. The latest spring date is May 27, 1923 (Bent).

99. **Numenius americanus.** LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—In Merrill's time this handsome Curlew was common during winter, while a few remained to breed on the partly dried marshes near the coast. He found recently fledged young on June 16. Like so many of our larger shore-birds its range has shrunk and its numbers greatly decreased in the last fifty years, but it has apparently increased in southern Texas, if the testimony of the ranchmen can be believed, particularly as a summer resident. Mr. R. M. Kleberg, the owner of the great Laureles Ranch and an enthusiastic conservationist, assures us that ten years ago on his ranch it was chiefly a common winter resident, but has now become an abundant permanent resident. At the present time it can certainly be called abundant at least in winter, and it is impossible to spend a day on the prairies without finding it in large numbers.

100. **Numenius hudsonicus.** HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Apparently a rare and little known transient. We have seen eleven birds collected by Armstrong from May 19 to 24, 1902, in the Dwight Collection. A specimen in the British Museum from the same collector is dated April 26.

101. **Numenius borealis.** ESKIMO CURLEW.—Formerly a common transient according to Merrill, though we cannot credit his statement that some passed the winter. There is a specimen taken April 2, 1889, in the Sennett Collection. Armstrong took ten specimens in March, now in the British Museum, in the late 80's or early 90's.

102. **Squatarola squatarola.** BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—It is surprising that this species was not recorded by Merrill, as it will undoubtedly prove to be a common transient and regular in winter, its known status further north at Corpus Christi. The Dwight Collection contains specimens taken by Smith between Sept. 30 and Nov. 28, 1911. We saw two on Jan. 4, and one on Jan. 10, near the coast east of Brownsville.

103. **Pluvialis dominica dominica.** GOLDEN PLOVER.—Reported as not rare in winter by Merrill, but this must be a mistake, as it winters only in southern South America. It undoubtedly occurs on spring migration. The only specimens we have seen were taken April 2, 1880 and April 20, 1913. There is a March specimen listed in the British Museum 'Catalogue' taken by Armstrong near Brownsville.

104. **Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—A common per-

manent resident, extraordinarily abundant on the prairies and in all open country all winter.

105. **Charadrius semipalmatus.** SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—Undoubtedly a common winter resident and abundant transient on the coast, but we have very little definite information. Armstrong sent three specimens to the Salvin and Godman Collection taken in April and May. Smith collected several on Oct. 1 and 3, 1911. We saw several near Point Isabel on Jan. 10, 1923.

106. **Charadrius melodus.** PIPING PLOVER.—While a regular winter visitant at Corpus Christi, this species is apparently much rarer as far south as Brownsville, and the only record is a bird shot Oct. 28, 1908, near Point Isabel by Smith.

107. **Charadrius nivosus.** SNOWY PLOVER.—This is another species of which our local knowledge is very defective. It is known as a permanent resident at Corpus Christi, but the only local record is that of Smith who states that he obtained one at Point Isabel on Oct. 24, 1908. This specimen is not in the Dwight Collection.

108. **Pagolla wilsonia.** WILSON'S PLOVER.—A common summer resident on the coast from March 15, 1881, to Aug. 6, 1908, but undoubtedly remaining much later. Merrill states that it is a "resident," but there is no further confirmation of this statement, and we did not meet with it during our winter trip.

109. **Podasocys montanus.** MOUNTAIN PLOVER.—An irregular winter visitant on the prairies, occurring at long intervals. A specimen was taken at Lomita, Jan. 11, 1881. Smith reports a flock of fifty on Nov. 11, 1908, near Point Isabel.

110. **Arenaria interpres morinella.**—RUDDY TURNSTONE.—A common winter resident and transient, and apparently summering not infrequently, which led Merrill and Sennett to suppose that it bred. It is one of the species which is now well known to summer in its winter quarters. We have seen no specimen taken earlier than Oct. 17 (1908).

111. **Jacana spinosa.** MEXICAN JACANA.—This neotropical species reaches the extreme northern limit of its range near Brownsville. Merrill found a pair in August 1876. Armstrong obtained seven specimens now in the British Museum from March to July, including a juvenile. Smith saw a specimen which had been shot by a Mexican on June 2, 1908, on the Rio Grande half way between Brownsville and the mouth of the river.

112. **Colinus virginianus texanus.** TEXAS BOB-WHITE.—A common permanent resident. Nesting date, May 21, 16 eggs (Merrill).

113. **Callipepla squamata castanogastris.** CHESTNUT-BELLIED SCALED QUAIL.—In Merrill's and Sennett's time this bird was not known in the vicinity of Brownsville. Sennett found it at Lomita and Merrill at Hidalgo, and they found nests in this section as late as May 22. Smith, writing in 1910, states that it had extended its range southeastward, and could now be found within a few miles of Brownsville. However, it is only proper to state that Merrill records shooting one out of a covey within

two miles of Brownsville on Sept. 13, 1877, so that its alleged extension of range may well be due to defective observation. It is now well known to the natives by the name of Blue Quail, but is regarded as rare. We found one small covey in the thorny scrub country of the Noriagas "pasture" about 15 miles northwest of Brownsville, and it is said not to occur any nearer to the town. We have seen numerous specimens.

114. **Meleagris gallopavo intermedia.** RIO GRANDE TURKEY.—This race of the Wild Turkey was formerly common in thickly timbered sections, and the type locality is Lomita, where Sennett found it common along the Rio Grande. It apparently never occurred in the immediate vicinity of Brownsville (Merrill). At the present time it is still numerous on the great Norias Ranch, where Mr. Caesar Kleberg jealously protects it, and Pearson has estimated their numbers to be as high as ten thousand. We saw a flock from the train!

115. **Ortalis vetula mccalli.** CHACHALACA.—Every citizen in the Brownsville region knows the Chachalaca, or "Chacalac" as it is often called. It is one of the favorite game-birds, and would long since have disappeared, were it not for the impenetrability of its haunts, and its exceedingly shy and wary disposition. It is active only for a short time at dawn and sunset, and is almost impossible to find during the day. It affects the thickest and densest scrub along the edges of the more remote resacas, and is especially partial to the ebony tree. Its range extends up the Rio Grande valley for about 150 miles, but due north of Brownsville, we know of no records beyond the Rio Coloral. It is a permanent resident.

Miller and Griscom ('Auk,' 1921, p. 44) have argued that *mccalli* is a synonym of *vetula*.

116. **Columba flavirostris.**—RED-BILLED PIGEON.—A common summer resident, straggling as far north as Corpus Christi in early spring (Rhoads), but its exact northern breeding limit remains to be determined. It is characteristic of the heaviest timber along the resacas and the Rio Grande. A very few specimens have been taken in winter. The bird arrives in early spring, certainly by the end of February, and remains at least as late as Oct. 4. Nesting dates are from April 30 to June 6.

117. **Zenaidoura macroura marginella.** WESTERN MOURNING DOVE.—Common permanent resident, abundant in winter throughout the territory.

118. **Leptotila fulviventris brachyptera.** WHITE-FRONTED DOVE.—A common permanent resident in the heavy timber of the resacas, liking exactly the same country as the Chachalaca. It is a shy and secretive bird, which walks quietly about on the ground under the densest scrub, which it is impossible to penetrate quietly. It nests in May and June.

119. **Melopelia asiatica trudeaui.** WHITE-WINGED DOVE.—An abundant summer resident of the heaviest timber, according to Sennett the commonest of the woodland Pigeons at Lomita. The earliest arrival date is April 6, 1910, and it is recorded as departing in November by Dr. Finley. According to Sennett, it ranges north to El Sauz and the Rio Coloral.

Smith reports it as wintering, but secured no specimens at this season, and local residents all agree it does not occur at that season. We note that Mr. Ridgway does not regard specimens from our region as separable from typical *asiatica* of the West Indies.

120. ***Chaemepelia passerina pallescens***. MEXICAN GROUND DOVE.—Common permanent resident.

121. ***Scardafella inca***. INCA DOVE.—Common permanent resident, often coming into towns and settlements.

122. ***Cathartes aura septentrionalis***. TURKEY VULTURE.—Common permanent resident.

123. ***Coragyps urubu***. BLACK VULTURE.—Common permanent resident. We found it slightly more numerous than the Turkey Buzzard, especially near the coast.

124. ***Elanoides forficatus***. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.—A regular transient, apparently common in spring, but we have no fall records. It arrives about the middle of March and is reported as late as April 24 (1877).

125. ***Elanus leucurus majusculus***. WHITE-TAILED KITE.—This beautiful Kite is a rare transient and winter resident, though this latter fact has not been previously recorded. Sennett collected one on May 5, 1878, and Mrs. Bailey reports it as seen in May, 1900, between Brownsville and Corpus Christi. The Dwight Collection contains 15 specimens from Brownsville taken between Oct. 19 (1909) and Feb. 21 (1897) of which three were shot in October, three in late November, five in mid-December, three in early January, and one in February.

126. ***Ictinia mississippiensis***. MISSISSIPPI KITE.—Apparently a rare transient, of which there are two spring records only. Sennett saw small flocks totalling fifty birds on May 7, 1877, and Smith collected one near Brownsville on April 25, 1911. Mr. Camp assures us that this bird is occasionally noted.

127. ***Circus hudsonius***. MARSH HAWK.—An abundant winter resident throughout the region, arriving according to Merrill in September and leaving in April.

128. ***Accipiter velox***. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—An uncommon transient and winter resident. Specimens before us were taken between Sept. 2 (1912) and April 20 (1878).

129. ***Accipiter cooperi***. COOPER'S HAWK.—An uncommon transient and winter resident, which has been taken between Oct. 12 (1888) and May 2 (1877). Frazar also shot one on July 2, 1880, at Lomita, which indicates that it breeds.

130. ***Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi***. HARRIS' HAWK.—An abundant permanent resident, characteristic of the prairies. Nesting dates are April 22 to May 1.

131. ***Buteo borealis borealis***. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Only one definite record, a specimen in the Dwight Collection taken near Brownsville on Feb. 27, 1897.

132. ***Buteo borealis krideri***. KRIDER'S HAWK.—A young female

in the Sennett Collection shot at Lomita by Frazar on March 15, 1880, is apparently this subspecies, if it be not a color phase of an exceedingly variable species, whose plumages are not well understood. Albinism is of more frequent occurrence in the eastern Red-tail than melanism. Two birds in the Dwight Collection identified provisionally as *krideri* prove referable to other races. Merrill reports a pair near Fort Brown on Jan. 10, 1877, which seemed to approach *krideri*. Another specimen in the Sanford Collection was shot May 9, 1900.

133. **Buteo borealis calurus.** WESTERN RED-TAIL.—This subspecies is apparently the resident form, though definite evidence of its breeding is lacking. It is not as common as many other Hawks. We have seen specimens taken Jan. 16 and March 8, 1912, and April 21, 1894. Further collecting to settle the status of the various Red-tails in this region is vitally necessary.

134. **Buteo lineatus texanus.** TEXAS RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Status uncertain in our area, though it is a common permanent resident around Corpus Christi. Neither Merrill nor Sennett record any kind of Red-shouldered Hawk. However specimens in the Sennett Collection from Brownsville and Lomita, and a series taken by Smith near Brownsville were collected between Sept. 25 (1912) and Feb. 10 (1912). This would seem to indicate that it is an uncommon winter visitant. We saw none during our visit.

135. **Buteo abbreviatus.**—ZONE-TAILED HAWK. This species is recorded from our territory only by Smith, who in 1910 wrote that it was fairly well distributed in summer, preferring heavy timber, but that none were seen in winter. Later, however, he collected four birds in December, January and February. An earlier specimen taken by him was shot on April 27, 1909. It is surprising that this Hawk has been so generally overlooked, although nearly every *Buteo* is difficult to identify in the field. Students should be on the lookout for it.

136. **Buteo swainsoni.** SWAINSON'S HAWK.—Recorded by Merrill as occurring sparingly in winter. Noted near Santa Rosa in the spring of 1900 by Mrs. Bailey. Specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken on Sept. 14, 1911, Oct. 26, 1896, Jan. 4 and 7, 1912. It should occur chiefly as a transient from late March to May, and again in September, October and November.

137. **Buteo platypterus.** BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—Doubtless a regular and common transient, but we have no definite fall records. It might occur in winter. Spring specimens before us were taken from April 2 (1912) to May 7 (1877).

138. **Buteo albicaudatus sennetti.** SENNETT'S WHITE-TAILED HAWK.—Fairly common permanent resident. The beautiful adult is easily recognizable at a great distance. Nesting date, May 2, 1878 (Merrill).

139. **Asturina plagiata plagiata.** MEXICAN GOSHAWK.—Frazar collected two specimens at Lomita for the Sennett Collection, a juvenal female on Feb. 16, 1880, and another female on Aug. 23, 1880.

140. **Archibuteo ferrugineus.** FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.—Sennett's record of finding a nest on May 16, 1877, is undoubtedly erroneous. He did not collect a specimen, and undoubtedly saw some other Hawk, as this species does not nest much further south than Kansas and Colorado. It does, however, occur in winter. Mr. Caesar Kleberg shot a specimen on the prairies of the Norias Ranch on Dec. 6, 1921, and it was examined by Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, who saw another twenty miles further south two days later. We saw a fine adult, also at Norias on Jan. 9, 1923. It is well-known to the ranchmen, who state that it differs from the other Hawks of the prairies in always roosting on the ground instead of on a shrub or telegraph pole.

141. **Aquila chrysaëtos.** GOLDEN EAGLE.—An accidental visitant. One shot near San Benito early in January, 1912, by H. N. Prentiss (Cf. Smith, 'Auk,' 1912, p. 255).

142. **Falco peregrinus anatum.** DUCK HAWK.—A fairly common transient and winter resident on the coast, living on the water-fowl, and arriving in the fall in their wake, according to Smith. We have seen specimens taken between Oct. 25, 1908, and April 10, 1890.

143. **Falco columbarius columbarius.** PIGEON HAWK.—A fairly common transient and winter visitant. There are specimens in the Sennett and Dwight Collections taken between October 19 (1909) and March 25 (1880) including a January and a February bird.

144. **Falco columbarius richardsoni.** RICHARDSON'S PIGEON HAWK.—A single specimen taken in "Cameron County," Feb. 4, 1889, in the Sanford Collection is the only record for our region. It should occur at least occasionally in winter.

145. **Falco fusco-caerulescens.** APLOMADO FALCON.—Merrill states that this handsome species is probably a not very uncommon summer resident and Smith, that it is quite common half way between Brownsville and Point Isabel. Three specimens in the Sennett Collection were taken on January 9, 1889, February 18, 1881, and February 18, 1889, and one in the Dwight Collection on June 1, 1894. Pearson saw one taken near Moro Island, December 20, 1921, about 35 miles north of Brownsville. Merrill found nests containing three eggs on June 16, 1877, and May 7, 1878. We did not see any, and believe it to be uncommon in winter. The Texas, Arizona and Mexican birds are readily separable from the South American form and should be known as *septentrionalis* Todd.

146. **Cerchneis sparveria sparveria.** SPARROW HAWK.—Abundant winter resident from about the middle of September until the early part of April (Merrill).

147. **Cerchneis sparveria phalaena.** DESERT SPARROW HAWK.—A single specimen of this subspecies is in the Dwight Collection. It was taken in Cameron County January 7, 1889.

148. **Polyborus cheriway.** AUDUBON'S CARACARA.—A common permanent resident. Merrill states that it is more abundant in winter than in summer.

149. **Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—Apparently chiefly a transient, although Smith states that it is resident in the maritime section of our region. The only specimen we have seen was collected at Brownsville, October 28, 1909. Mrs. Bailey recorded it from the Rio Colorado in the spring of 1900, and Pearson found three on Moro Island, December 20, 1921. It might occur in winter.

150. **Tyto pratincola.** BARN OWL.—A fairly common permanent resident on the lower Rio Grande. Merrill, Sennett and Singley noted that it bred in holes in the banks of the river as well as in a belfry and in ruined buildings. Pearson records one that was captured at El Sauz Ranch early in December, 1921. There are six specimens from our region in the Sennett and Dwight Collections.

151. **Asio wilsonianus.** LONG-EARED OWL.—A single specimen in the Dwight Collection was taken at Brownsville, December 7, 1892. Another was shot by Smith near Brownsville, Jan. 4, 1912 ('Auk,' 1912, p. 255).

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS DURING MAY, 1924.

BY HERBERT FRIEDMANN.

Plates XXV-XXIX.

IN the course of my Cowbird studies conducted under a grant from the National Research Council I spent the month of May in the field at Brownsville, Texas and vicinity. While the main object of the trip was the Red-eyed Cowbird, and to a lesser extent the Dwarf Cowbird, numerous notes were made daily of the other birds as well, and these notes form the basis of the present paper.

The lower Rio Grande valley is a region of great ornithological interest because of the Mexican and Central American birds that occur there and nowhere else in the United States. Such are the Mexican Grebe, Mexican Cormorant, Mottled Duck, Chachalaca, Red-billed Pigeon, White-fronted Dove, Inca Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Couch's Kingbird, Derby Flycatcher, Green Jay, Varied Bunting, and Rio Grande Yellow-throat. Another point of interest in this region is the historical one, associated as it is with the names of many of our earlier ornithologists, particularly