

where the ice was so thick that we couldn't get thru at all, and I almost froze before we got out. There were lots of cormorants sitting on the ice which reminded me very much of that plate of the Pelagic Cormorant in Bailey's "Hand-Book."

Marbled and Kittlitz Murrelets are common here but we can not find their breeding ground, and judging from birds we got they have either bred some time ago or are just going too.

My Duck Hawks are great pets and are growing rapidly. They come into the tent and beg for bodies now, and they have a tremendous appetite. One gained two ounces a day for four days, and is doing better now.

*July 8.*—We went up to the island on the 5th. Glaucous-winged Gulls Pigeon Guillemots, and Pelagic Cormorants were breeding on the island.

The Muir Glacier has retreated on account of an earthquake four or five years ago until the face of it is about twice its former size. The discharge of ice is at least twice as great and the Marble Islands are right in front of the glacier so that they have ice floating thickly about them all the time. This change in temperature has evidently had a noticeable effect on the nesting of the birds on the islands. The cold has evidently driven them elsewhere as we found lots of signs that showed that the birds had formerly bred there abundantly; the Indians haven't exterminated them because they can't get there on account of the floating ice. A few Tufted and Horned Puffins were nesting in crevices in the rocks. I thought that I had got the "Old Boy" himself when I shot one of those Horned Puffins and I was sure of it when it grabbed hold of me with that "tin-shears" beak. We saw a pair of Parasitic Jaegers chasing a Duck Hawk about the islands. Several species of land birds were seen. Townsend Sparrows breed as also do Alaska Hermit Thrushes. Saw also Savanna Sparrow, Least Sandpiper and Barn Swallow. The Pelagic Cormorants were just beginning to lay, as I saw four nests with one egg in each. They make a particularly groaning sound when on the nest that sounds like some one moaning in pain. We could hear it quite a ways out before we landed and couldn't imagine what it was.

I took in three adult Pelagic Cormorants as they were in fine breeding plumage. They were pretty tough to put up but not nearly so bad as the Horned Puffins. I got five Kittlitz Murrelets on the way, so I haven't been idle since I got back.

We will probably spend ten days or so on the other side of the bay and then go out on the outside of Chichagof near Cross Sound. I suppose that will be about the end of my collecting as I expect to leave Juneau for Stanford about August 10.

## CATALOG OF BIRDS COLLECTED BY W. W. BROWN, JR., IN MIDDLE LOWER CALIFORNIA

By JOHN E. THAYER and OUTRAM BANGS

FROM the autumn of 1906 until the spring of 1907 Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., was engaged in collecting in Lower California in the interests of the Thayer Museum at Lancaster, Massachusetts. During this period his headquarters were at San Quintin, from which place he made excursions into the surrounding country.

At San Quintin, Brown made large collections, chiefly of sea birds, but these we do not list as they contained species mostly well known from the region.

In October and November he visited Rosario, latitude 30°; and in late February, March and early April he worked south a little past latitude 29° or almost opposite Cerros Island, collecting at Santana, Rosarito, San Andris and San Jabier. It is the specimens secured at these points, south of San Quintin, that we list in the present article. The region is an interesting one, not only because several subspecies are peculiar to it, but because in other cases it appears to be where the Cape St. Lucas form intergrades with that of southern California or northern Lower California. Some of the records also extend the ranges of Cape forms to well up the peninsula, as in the case of the Violet-green Swallow and the Ash-throated Flycatcher.

A good deal has already been published on the birds of this general region by Anthony, Bryant, Belding and others, but by far the most important contribution to our knowledge of the ornithology of Lower California is Wm. Brewster's "Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California."<sup>x</sup> In this carefully executed work the author gives the range of every species and subspecies so far as known, and references to the writings of all other ornithologists who have dealt with Lower California birds.

*Puffinus opisthomelas* Coues. One male, San Jabier, April 2, 1907.

*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi* (Aud.). Two males, Rosarito and Santana, March 3 and March 19.

*Accipiter cooperii mexicanus* (Swains.). One male, Rosario, Nov. 4, 1906, and one female, November 25.

*Accipiter velox pacificus* (Lesson). One male, Rosario, November 19.

*Buteo lineatus elegans* (Cassin). One adult female, November 9.

*Cerchneis sparveria peninsularis* (Mearns). Four specimens, both sexes, Rosario, November, and Santana, March 18. The latter, an adult male, is a pale and small example, its wing measuring but 167, and is an extreme example of *peninsularis*.

*Lophortyx californicus vallicola* (Ridg.). Eighteen specimens, Rosario, October and November, and San Jabier, San Andris and Rosarito, February and March. Nests with eggs were taken at San Jabier, March 27 and April 1.

*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus* (Linn.). One female, Rosario, November 6.

*Zenaidura carolinensis carolinensis* (Linn.). Two specimens: a female, Rosario, November 6, and a male, Santana, March 18.

*Melopelia leucoptera* (Linn.). One adult female, Santana, March 20.

*Chamæpelina passerina pallescens* Baird. One adult female, Santana, March 14.

*Geococcyx californianus* (Less.). Three specimens, both sexes, Rosario, October and November, and Santana, March.

*Colaptes chrysoides brunnescens* Anthony. Eight specimens—one ♂ from Rosario, November 26; seven, both sexes, from Santana, San Jabier, and Rosarito, March.

These skins are a trifle darker brown on the upper parts than in specimens from Arizona and Sonora in corresponding plumage, and, if *brunnescens* can be maintained as a subspecies, would probably all be considered as belonging to it.

*Sphyrapicus ruber* (Gmel.). One female, Rosario, November 2.

*Dendrocopos scalaris lucasanus* (Xantus). Five adults, both sexes, Santana and San Andris, February and March.

<sup>x</sup> Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California, Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Vol. XLI, No. 1, September, 1902.

**Asio wilsonianus** (Lesson). One female, Rosario, November 14.

**Bubo magellanicus pacificus** (Cassin). Two specimens, male and female, Rosario, November 18. These were, without doubt, migrants or winter visitors, as the breeding bird of the region is *B. m. elachistus*.

**Bubo magellanicus elachistus** (Brewster). Three specimens, both sexes, Rosario, November. The five skins of Great Horned Owls listed above were carefully identified for us by Nelson and Oberholser, and there is no question of the correctness of the identification. Nelson took *B. m. elachistus* in the same general region in the summer, and it would appear to be the breeding form of the Peninsula of Lower California north at least to San Quintin.

**Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa** (Bonap.). Eight specimens, both sexes, Rosario, November, and San Jabier, March.

**Strix pratincola** Bonap. Seven specimens, both sexes, Rosario, October and November, and San Andris, February 29. This latter bird, a female, had an egg in the oviduct nearly ready to be laid.

**Phalænoptilus nuttallii nitidus** Brewster. Two adults, male and female, Rosario, November 1 and November 12.

**Calypte costæ** (Bourc.). Four adults, three males and a female, San Jabier and Rosarito, February 22 to April 1.

**Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus** (Scl.). One female, Santana, March 24.

**Empidonax difficilis** Baird. Two males, Santana, March 18 and March 20. These are probably migrants as they are certainly referable to *difficilis* and not to *cineritius*.

**Empidonax griseus** Brewster. Two males, Santana, March 12 and 14.

**Sayornis saya** (Bonap.). Four adults, both sexes, San Jabier, San Andris and Rosarito, February 23 to March 30.

**Sayornis nigricans** (Swains.). Three adults, males, Santana, March 11 to March 20. These birds have the under tail coverts nearly wholly white and represent *S. nigricans semiatra* (Vigors), if that form is recognized as a subspecies. We, however, are rather inclined to agree with the opinion of Brewster that the characters are too slight. Like Brewster's skins from the Cape Region, these Santana specimens have rather large bills.

**Myiarchus mexicanus** <sup>2</sup> **pertinax** (Baird). Thirteen adults, both sexes, Rosarito, Santana and San Jabier, March. These skins are all referable to the Cape St. Lucas form, differing from true *mexicanus* in grayer back and nape and much larger bill.

**Tyrannus vociferans** Swains. One adult female, Santana, March 16.

**Otocoris alpestris enertera** Oberholser. Nine adults, both sexes, Rosarito and San Jabier, February and March.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus** (Vigors). Twenty-six adults, both sexes, Santana, San Jabier and Rosarito, March and April.

**Oroscoptes montanus** (Townsend). Twenty-nine specimens, both sexes, Santana, Rosarito, San Jabier, February 23 to April 1.

Brewster states that two specimens examined by him from La Paz were "larger and much deeper colored" than birds from Texas. The present series shows some variation in color, but on the whole we can see no decided difference either in size or color between it and specimens from New Mexico, Texas, etc., when skins in the same condition of plumage are compared.

<sup>2</sup> Osgood (*Auk*, Vol. XXIV p. 219, April, 1907) has shown from his examination of Kaup's type that the Ash-throated Flycatcher is *M. mexicanus*, and that *M. cooperi* is the name of the bird we have been calling *Myiarchus mexicanus*.

**Toxostoma cinereum mearnsi** Anthony. Twenty-four adults, both sexes, Rosario, San Jabier, and Santana, November, March and April. The skins from Rosario are of course true *T. c. mearnsi*; those from the more southern localities—San Jabier and Santana—show slight signs of intergradation toward true *cinereum* of the Cape region, especially in the black spots on the under parts being rather less purely black, more brownish.

**Toxostoma rediviva helva** Thayer and Bangs. *Toxostoma rediviva helva*, Thayer and Bangs, *Proc. New Eng. Zool. Club*, Vol. IV, pp. 17-18. April 30, 1907. One hundred and thirty-four specimens, both sexes, Roario, October 25 to November 26.

**Toxostoma lecontei arenicola** Anthony. Thirty-two specimens, adults and young of both sexes, San Jabier, March 27 to April 7. This Thrasher must breed very early in the season as nestlings at this date were fully fledged, many of them full grown. All young birds including those practically full grown have the bill much shorter than the adults. In color the young are much like the adult except in being rather more fulvous, especially on belly and under tail coverts, and less "bleached." The adults are all in rather worn and faded plumage.

**Planesticus migratorius propinquus** (Ridg.). One female, Rosario, November 15.

**Polioptila cærulea obscura** Ridg. Three adults, two males and a female, Santana and San Jabier, March 14 to April 1.

**Polioptila californica** Brewster. Four adults, three males and a female, Santana and Rosarito, February 24 to March 17. These skins show some signs of being intermediate between *P. plumbea* and *P. californica*. The white edge of the outer rectrix is wider than in true *P. californica*, tho it is black next the shaft, and the gray of under parts is darker than in *P. plumbea* more nearly as in *P. californica*. The color of the back is about intermediate between that of typical examples of the two forms, being darker than in *P. plumbea*, but not so dark nor so slaty as in *P. californica*.

**Heleodytes brunneicapillus affinis** (Xantus). Fifteen specimens, adults of both sexes, Santana and San Jabier, March. This series represents a form decidedly nearer to *affinis* than to *bryanti*. In only one character do these skins approach *bryanti* and that is in the spotting below which is usually heavier than in Cape St. Lucas specimens; still some skins in the series differ even in this respect but little from true *H. b. affinis*. Anthony (*Auk*, Vol. XII, p. 280, 1895) says he would expect to find intergradation taking place between the two forms at no great distance south of San Fernando, but that skins from that place are nearer *bryanti*. A nest with three fresh eggs was taken from a cactus, three feet from the ground, March 17 at Santana.

**Thryomanes bewickii cerroensis** (Anthony). Ten adults, both sexes, Santana, San Andris, San Jabier and Rosarito, February 27 to March 31. These are in all respects quite like skins from Cerros Island, and the Cerros Wren is therefore not an island form but occurs also in the adjacent parts of the peninsula of Lower California. Nelson and Oberholser have examined this series and agree with us that the specimens are identical with Cerros Island examples.

**Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus** (Say). One adult female, Santana, March 19.

**Auriparus flaviceps lamprocephalus** Oberholser. Four adults, three males and a female, Santana and Rosarito, March. These all are referable to the Cape St. Lucas form, being small, the wing in the series measuring: ♂ 49.5, 49.5 and 51; ♀, 48.5.

**Apelocoma californica obscura** Anthony. Two adults, male and female,

Santana, March. These two skins are not typical, but are tending toward *hypoleuca* of the Cape region.

*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* Ridg. Eight adults, both sexes, Santana, Rosarito and San Jabier, February 27 to March 30. These skins were identified for us by Nelson and Oberholser, who pronounce them perfectly typical. Gambel's Shrike appears to be the breeding form of the whole peninsula of Lower California.

*Vireo vicinior* Coues. One adult female, Santana, March 13.

*Vireo bellii pusillus* (Coues). One adult male, Santana, March 17.

*Ampelis cedrorum* (Vieill.). Two males, Santana, March 14 and 20.

*Phainopepla nitens* (Swains.). Three adults, both sexes, Santana, March.

*Tachycineta thalassina brachyptera* Brewster. Three adult males, Santana, March 11. These are extreme examples of the Cape St. Lucas form, measuring respectively—wing 107, 104, 103.5; tail 42.5, 42, 43. This record establishes the fact that the form extends at least half way up the peninsula.

*Anthus pensilvanicus* (Latham). One adult male, Santana, March 24.

*Helminthophila celata lutescens* Ridg. Three specimens, two males and a female, Santana and San Jabier, March 11 and March 28.

*Geothlypis trichas arizela* Oberholser. Two adults, male and female, San Jabier, March 28 and April 4. The plumage is quite abraded in both, and they have the appearance of having been breeding birds.

*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola* Ridg. Two adult males, Santana, March 19 and 20.

*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus* (Wagler). Three males, Rosario, November.

*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* Ridg. One adult male, Santana, March 2.

*Icterus parisorum* Bonap. Three males, Santana, March 16 to 22.

*Agelaius tricolor* (Aud.). One male, Rosario, November 11.

*Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis* Ridg. Two males, Rosario, November.

*Sturnella neglecta* Aud. Five specimens, both sexes, Rosario, November, and Rosarito and San Jabier, February and March.

*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus* Oberholser. One adult female, San Jabier, March 27.

*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* Say. Two adults, male and female, Santana, March 20 and 31. The adult male is in color perfectly typical *frontalis*, with the red portions of the plumage restricted exactly as in the average male of that form. Its wing measures 74 mm.—perhaps a trifle short for *frontalis*; but Mr. Brewster found so much variation in his series from Cape St. Lucas of *C. m. ruberrimus* in measurements that he considers this character cannot be relied upon to distinguish the form. The wing of the female measures 74 mm., also—about the average length in any large series of *C. m. frontalis*, female.

*Calamospiza melanocorys* Stejneger. One male, Santana, March 31.

*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus* (Bonap.). Two specimens, male and female, Rosarito, February 25.

*Amphispiza bilineata deserticola* Ridg. Fourteen adults, both sexes, Rosarito, San Jabier, Santana, February 26 to April 1.

*Amphispiza belli cinerea* Towns. Seventeen adults, both sexes, San Jabier, Rosarito, February 22 to March 31. To secure a good series of this very local and strongly characterized subspecies was one of Mr. Brown's particular missions to this region. He found the bird to be not very common at the places at which he collected.

*Spizella socialis arizonæ* Coues. Two adults, male and female, Santana, March 20 and 24.

*Spizella atrogularis* (Cabanis). One adult male, Santana, March 19.

*Spizella breweri* Cassin. Ten specimens, both sexes, Santana, San Jabier and Rosarito, February 26 to April 1. Mr. Brown did not take *Spizella pallida*, tho it probably occurs in this region in winter.

*Melospiza cinerea cooperi* Ridg. One specimen, Rosario, November 18. This bird, a migrant, of course, is not typical, having probably come from a region where *cooperi* intergrades with some other form.

*Zonotrichia* 3 *leucophrys leucophrys* (Forster). Three specimens, adult male and female, and young male, Rosario, and San Jabier, March 2, 27 and 29.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (Nuttall). Seven specimens, adults and young of both sexes, Rosarito and San Jabier, February 25 to April 2.

*Oreospiza chlorura* (Aud.). One male, San Jabier, March 30.

*Pipilo crissalis senicula* (Anthony). Seven adults, both sexes, Santana and San Jabier, March. Some skins in this series have the throat distinctly paler posteriorly, while others have it uniform; all are whitish in the middle of the belly, and intergradation with *P. c. albigula* is plainly indicated.

Boston, Mass.

## SOME COLORADO NOTES ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCREECH OWL

By ROBERT B. ROCKWELL

**D**URING the long dreary winter months when the countryside is shrouded in snow and ice and when most of our feathered friends are taking their annual vacation in the sunny southland, there is one little fellow who is constantly with us and who, tho very inconspicuous to the casual observer, is sure to be found by the lonesome bird student who is disconsolate enough to brave snow and cold for a short visit with the birds along the well wooded streams in the vicinity of Denver.

The Rocky Mountain Screech Owl (*Megascops asio maxwellæ*)—for this is the feathered gentleman to whom I refer—is a resident thruout the year all along the eastern base of the foothills in the north central part of Colorado, but his hunting and breeding grounds are closely restricted to the well wooded creek bottoms, the only locations in this sparsely timbered region which afford him proper food, nesting sites and means of concealment.

As to whether this bird performs a slight north and south movement at migration periods, there seems to be a difference of opinion. Some observers declare that *Megascops* leaves its summer home around Denver, and moves south as far at least as Colorado Springs (75 miles), and its breeding grounds are occupied as a winter home by migrants from farther north. Others claim that it spends the entire year in the same haunts, laying its eggs in one of the many cavities occupied during the winter. Whichever view of the matter is correct, it is a fact that thruout the year the "owl stumps" so dear to the memory of every bird student, are occupied by these birds, and it is seldom indeed that a good sized grove of aged timber, with a few dead stumps scattered thru it, will not contain a pair of Screech Owls.

A very dull and lifeless bird you would undoubtedly call it as—your arm in-

3 We are of course aware of the name *Hortulanus* Vieillot (see ALLEN, Bull. Am. Mus. of N. H. Vol. XXIII, p. 360, 1907) that by first species rule replaces *Pipilo* and by elimination *Zonotrichia*, but until it is formally alloted to one or the other, we prefer using the old names.