

No. 12.— *An Ornithological Survey in the Caribbean Lowlands  
of Honduras*

BY JAMES L. PETERS

ON the morning of 13 January 1928 Mr. Edward Bangs of Boston and I landed at Tela, Honduras, for the purpose of making an ornithological survey of the general region about Tela and particularly the Lancetilla Valley.

Here, in coöperation with Dr. Wilson Popenoe, Director of Agricultural Experiments of the United Fruit Company, various scientists, representing different fields of biological interests, have been invited to make field investigations under unusually favorable conditions.

At Tela we were met by Mr. Rufus K. Thomas, Division Manager, who welcomed us most cordially and placed practically the entire facilities of the company at our disposal. That same afternoon we were taken out to Lancetilla and assigned quarters and working space in a comfortable and well-equipped house, and mess privileges with the staff of the Experiment Station at the office about half a mile away.

The Lancetilla valley is the name now applied to the valley of the Tela River, a short stream originating in the hills about seven miles from the coast and flowing northward between two ridges that terminate rather abruptly about half a mile from the shore. The highest point on the ridge forming the eastern rim of the valley is about 1,800 feet, while the western side is little, if any, over 1,000 feet. The valley floor at the northern end, where it joins the coastal plain, is about three quarters of a mile in width, gradually becoming narrower towards the upper end, until it is no wider than the river itself. The lower reaches of the river are deep and sluggish, the middle stretches swift and shallow with a sandy bottom, while the upper portion is a mountain stream tumbling down the hillside over rocks and boulders. The flat portion of the valley, from its mouth to a point about four miles inland, has long ago been denuded of the forest. In its place were planted cocoanut palms, but these have also been removed and bananas substituted. With the development of land elsewhere more suited to bananas, the plantations in the valley have been abandoned and the land is reverting to characteristic second growth jungle. The northern ends of both east and west ridges have long ago been cleared and converted to pastures of guinea grass, and except for the gentler slopes or stream beds have remained in this condition. The western slopes have



likewise been cleared either for pasture or small farms for at least five miles inland, though there are a few patches of forest still remaining, and other portions have "reverted" to second growth jungle. The hills forming the eastern rim, together with the southern end of the valley, are completely clad in primeval rain forest. Rainfall at Lancetilla for 1926 was 136 inches; for 1927 128.76 inches.

A narrow gauge railway runs from Tela about four miles up the valley to the buildings of the experiment station; thence side trails continue on up the valley or back a short distance to the small clearings. A well-marked path also leads to the summit of the western rim. Bangs and I commenced our operations in this location 14 January and continued until 28 January. On the latter day we made a short trip to Progreso, a small Honduranian town in the Ulua valley, 88 kilometers westward from Tela on the Tela railroad. The railroad follows the coastal plain, crossing large areas of swamp land, pastures, new and abandoned banana plantations, until it reaches the Ulua River about fifteen miles from its mouth; it then swings up the wide level valley of that river, passing through more swamps, banana lands, new clearings and reverted land. There is little natural forest left within sight of the railroad. In fact the diminished rainfall in the country west of Tela has mitigated against the formation of a rain forest, and the woodland in the Ulua valley is more in the nature of a scrub forest, that has attained larger growth only where the supply of surface water was favorable. The rainfall at Progreso for 1926 was 68.15 inches; for 1927, 67.52 inches. We remained at Progreso only three days, returning to Lancetilla 1 February. Here we collected actively until 9 March, when we again went by the railroad to kilometer 52, where Mr. George Ascough was in charge of the digging of the Toloa canal, a project that has already drained a large area of marsh, and when it is completed will drain still more of the great Toloa swamp. This drainage project is for the purpose of reclaiming land to be used for further banana planting, but this cannot be done until the side drains are completed. In the meantime much of the vegetation has died off and floods have deposited large amounts of sediment, resulting in a wide expanse of mud flats interspersed with pools of stagnant water. In such situations water fowl of all sorts abound. Never in all my experience have I seen such numbers of Herons, or Wood Ibises as have flocked there to feed. But it can last only for a short time, as eventually these flats and marshy areas will be completely drained and planted to bananas. We remained at Mr. Ascough's camp until 12 March, when we once more returned to Lancetilla.



In addition to the two side trips especially mentioned, we visited the coastal plain section near Tela on several occasions. On 27 February we collected at Martinez Creek, a large area of swamp bordering the railroad 34 kilometers west of Tela, and on 28 February visited the Toloa lagoon. To reach the latter locality we took the railroad to a point about 30 kilometers west of Tela, and traveled by mule some four or five miles southward where we found vast grass marsh alternating with large areas of open water. It was here that we found Everglade Kites.

The great proportion of our time, however, we spent at Lancetilla, working all the different types of country and carrying on our efforts for about eleven weeks. At the time of our arrival the main part of the rains had ceased, although occasional showers fell. A severe "norther" accompanied by high wind and much rain took place 28-29 January and another on 19 February; during the course of the latter *temporal* over eleven inches of rain fell. From that time on, however, the weather was characteristic of the dry season, the showers becoming infrequent and the daily temperature averaging warmer.

On 2 April we sailed for the United States, arriving in Boston 9 April.

The ornithological history of Honduras is incomplete and fragmentary. No attempt has been made to list the birds recorded from that country in the way that Mr. Carriker has done for Costa Rica. Accounts dealing with collections made wholly or partly in Honduras have been published both in the United States and abroad, but most of such accounts have been rather in the nature of catalogues of collections, and practically none of them have taken into account the many factors now regarded necessary for consideration in preparing an intelligent account of the bird life of any region.

The following articles deal almost entirely with Honduras birds:

PARZUDAKI, EMILE

1841. Rev. zoöl., p. 306. (Described *Pipra candei* from Truxillo, Honduras.)

SCLATER, PHILIP LUTLEY

1858. List of birds collected by George Cavendish Taylor, Esq., in the republic of Honduras, Proc. zoöl. soc. London, p. 356-360. (Lists 39 species collected on a journey across Honduras from the Gulf of Fonseca to Omoa.)

MOORE, THOMAS J.

1859. List of birds and mammals collected by Mr. Joseph Leyland in Honduras, Belize, and Guatemala, Proc. zoöl. soc. London, p. 50-65 (Birds, p. 51-65. Annotated list of 125 species, 94 of which are credited



to Honduras, collected at Omoa, San Pedro, Chilomo, Comayagua, Chimalacon [= Chamelicon] River, Aloor [= Ulua] River. *Dendrocincla anabatina* and *Chloronerpes sanguinolentus* described as new by Sclater, types from Omoa, and *Ortyx leylandi* described as new by Moore, type from Flores, on the road from Omoa to Comayagua.)

TAYLOR, GEORGE CAVENDISH

1860. On birds collected or observed in the republic of Honduras, with a short account of a journey across that country from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, Ibis, p. 10-24; 110-122; 222-228; 311-317. (Itinerary and collector's notes on habits or occurrence of 96 species of birds. The collection itself was reported on by Sclater in 1858.)

SCLATER, P. L. AND OSBERT SALVIN

1870. On birds collected by Mr. George M. Whitley on the coast of Honduras, Proc. zool. soc. London, p. 835-839. (A nominal list of 135 species represented by 520 skins from Puerto Cabello, Julian, Medina and San Pedro, with annotations on six of the species mentioned.)

RIDGWAY, ROBERT

1888. Catalogue of a collection of birds made by Mr. Charles H. Townsend on islands in the Caribbean Sea and in Honduras, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., 10, p. 572-597. Pt. 3, Island of Ruatan, Honduras (3 species listed). Pt. 4, Truxillo, Honduras (56 species listed. *Thamnophilus intermedius*, *Centurus santacruzi pauper*, *Engyptila vinaceiventris* described as new). Pt. 5, Segovia River, Honduras (99 species listed. *Pitylus poliogaster scapularis*, *Sturnella magna inexpectata*, *Thaluranian townsendi*, *Colinus nigrogularis segoviensis*, *Porzana exilis vagans* and *Tigri-soma excellens* described as new).

SALVIN, OSBERT

1888. A list of the birds of the islands off the coast of Yucatan and the bay of Honduras, Ibis, p. 241-265.

1889. Pt. 2, p. 359-379.

1890. Pt. 3, p. 84-95.

(Seventy-two species are credited to the islands of Ruatan and Bonacca, of which 42 are migrants. The account is based on the collecting of George F. Gaumer, and is practically the only source of our knowledge of the birds of the Bay Islands. The third island of this group, Utila, lying about 25 miles off La Ceiba, seems never to have been visited by an ornithologist.)

RIDGWAY, ROBERT

1891. Notes on some birds from the interior of Honduras, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., 14, p. 467-471. (This brief account was based on a collection of nearly 200 specimens representing 85 species, obtained in the "interior of Honduras" by Erich Wittkugel. *Platypsaris aglaiae hypophaeus* and *Pithys bicolor olivascens* are described as new. The plumages of the immature male and adult female of *Gymnocichla chiroleuca* Scl.



and Salv. and of the young male of *Grallaria guatemalensis* Prev. are described for the first time. Thirteen other species are mentioned "on account of the locality." Wittkugel's birds, as far as Ridgway mentions the seventeen species dealt with, came from San Pedro Sula, Santa Ana, Guaruma, Volcan de Puca, Chasniguas and Chamelicon.)

BANGS, OUTRAM

1903. Birds and mammals from Honduras, Bull. mus. comp. zoöl., **39**, no. 6, p. 141-159. (Birds, p. 141-157. A catalogue of a collection of nearly 700 skins representing 127 species collected in a period of less than two months at La Ceiba and Yaruca by W. W. Brown. *Chloronerpes simplex allophyus*, *Picumnus dimotus*, *Dendroornis nana confinis*, *Arremonops conirostris centratus* are described as new.)

The papers here listed are the only ones of which I have any knowledge, dealing with collections of birds from Honduras. Additional locality records from Honduras are to be found in the Biologia Centrali Americana, and in Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America. In both cases such records appear to be based on specimens from small collections that have never been published on. In this category may be mentioned a collection of seventy-five skins representing 38 species formerly in the Bangs collection, now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. These skins were made by an engineer on a boundary survey between Honduras and Nicaragua. They were collected along the boundary line between those two countries at a point about 180 miles from the Pacific coast; the date is not given, but the skins were purchased in 1901 from F. B. Webster and Company and at that time had only just come in. An Inca Dove from this collection served as the type of *Scardafella inca dialeucos* Bangs.

*List of Species Collected or Observed*

TINAMIDAE

TINAMUS MAJOR ROBUSTUS Scl. and Salv.

*Tinamus robustus* Sclater and Salvin, Exot. orn., 1868, p. 87, pl. 44 (Choctum, Guatemala).

Guangalola, Mountain Hen

An adult female was secured 24 January at about 1,800 feet in the forest clothing the hills on the southerly side of the Lancetilla valley. No other examples were collected by us but several were examined in the bags of native hunters. The species is not at all numerous.

In the region about Tela this bird appears to be confined to the heavy



forests, whence at dawn and dusk its rapidly repeated onomatopoetic "*guangalola*" may be heard to issue.

Specimens of *Tinamus robustus* from Honduras (Lancetilla and Yaruca) are somewhat intermediate between *T. m. robustus* and *T. m. fuscipennis* but much nearer the former. An example from the Rio Tuma in northern Nicaragua is, however, clearly referable to the latter.

The name *Tinamus robustus* is ordinarily assumed to have originated with Sclater in the P. Z. S. for 1860, p. 253, based on an example from Orizaba, but the name is a *nomen nudum* at that citation and was not validated until the publication of Exotic Ornithology in 1868.

#### CRYPTURELLUS SOUI MESERYTHRUS (Scl.)

*Tinamus meserythrus* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 392 (Playa Vicente, Oaxaca, Mexico).

The guide, Ramon Givara, shot a specimen of this small Tinamou as it was running along a trail through bushy second growth near the Tela River just above the Lancetilla experiment station 14 January. The bird proved to be an adult female.

On several occasions I caught sight of what appeared to be individuals of this species on the lower slopes of the forested hills bordering the valley, and once found a feather from the back of one while walking through an abandoned section of bananas. The species is probably not uncommon in the lower mountain slopes and valley bottoms in the region about Tela.

#### CRYPTURELLUS BOUCARDI COSTARICENSIS (Dwight and Griscom)

*Crypturus boucardi costaricensis* Dwight and Griscom, Am. mus. novit., no. 142, 1924, p. 1 (Miravalles, 1,500 feet, Costa Rica).

#### Perdiz

A female was shot by Bangs as it crossed the trail at an elevation of about 1,200 feet in open forest to the south of Lancetilla, 22 March. In addition to this example I examined the mangled remains of another in a bag with three Guangalolas, made by two native hunters on 18 March in the extreme upper Lancetilla valley.

No Tinamou of this species has been taken previously in Honduras, though its occurrence was postulated by the fact that *Crypturellus boucardi* ranges from southern Mexico to northern Costa Rica.

I am quite convinced that Dwight and Griscom are right in describ-



ing a southern race of this species, but I am not so certain that the characters they point out are the ones by which it really differs. The Lancetilla specimen agrees more nearly with two birds from northern Costa Rica than with examples from Mexico and Guatemala, so I have referred it to *costaricensis*, though possibly the fact that it is in very fresh and unworn plumage may accentuate the resemblance.

## CRACIDAE

### CRAX GLOBICERA GLOBICERA Linn.

*Crax globicera* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 270 (Habitat Brasilia, Curacao. Error, I designate Vera Cruz, Mexico).

#### Pajuil, Pajuia, Curassow

A fine adult male of this large bird was shot 10 February from the tops of tall trees growing at an elevation of about 1,000 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla.

The Pajuil is much prized as a table-bird (for a bird that is always shot perched cannot exactly be regarded as a game bird) by both the Hondurans and foreigners, and is hunted assiduously whenever occasion permits. It is a rather uncommon species.

### PENELOPE PURPURASCENS Wagl.

*Penelope purpurascens* Wagler, Isis, 1830, p. 1110 (Mexico).

#### Pavo, Turkey

A male and a female were taken 24 January from a band of half a dozen or so individuals feeding in the tree tops well up near the summit of the ridge forming the eastern border of the Lancetilla valley.

Like the Curassow, the Pavo is an object of considerable attention on the part of native hunters; the species has become uncommon in the vicinity of Tela.

### ORTALIS VETULA PLUMBICEPS (Gray)

*Ortalis plumbeiceps* Gray, List Gallinae Brit. mus., 1867, p. 11 (Honduras, [= Omoa], Guatemala).

#### Chachalaca

On 1 February I shot a female Chachalaca near Progreso; 30 March a male was secured from a native hunter that had been taken near Lancetilla. These birds agree with examples from eastern British



Honduras and Guatemala. Chachalacas have not been recorded previously from east of Omoa though they are very common in the Ulua valley.

They are birds of the scrub second growth in the lowlands, where their loud cry is frequently heard, but where a glimpse of the bird is rare. Walking quietly along the edge of a clearing bordering a dense tangle of second growth one may sometimes see a Chachalaca perched part way up a small tree, or in traversing a path through some tangle, a fleeting glimpse of one is obtained as it flashes rapidly across a narrow opening. Chachalacas are usually heard in the early morning as they call in chorus, but at any hour of the day one may start calling, and the cry is taken up on all sides for a few minutes, only to stop as suddenly as it began.

## PERDICIDAE

### ODONTOPHORUS MELANOTIS VERECUNDUS subsp. nov.

#### Perdiz

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 136509 M. C. Z.; Lancetilla (1,100 feet), Honduras; collected 10 February 1928 by James L. Peters (orig. no. 5325).

*Characters*.—Similar to *Odontophorus melanotis melanotis* Salvin, of eastern Nicaragua and eastern Costa Rica but slightly grayer above, especially the upper back; black markings on the scapulars and interscapulars less pronounced; less black freckling on the wing coverts; below, the dark bars on the tibiae obsolete, the light interspaces wider and paler.

On 10 February while ascending the trail from Lancetilla to the eastern rim of the valley Bangs and I came suddenly upon a little bevy of these Quail close beside the path. The birds immediately took shelter in the heavy underbrush bordering the trail at that point, but I succeeded in securing two specimens, both females, before the flock escaped altogether. This is a rare bird in the Tela region, the instance of its occurrence just noted being the only one that came to my notice.

There are no previous records for *Odontophorus melanotis* in Honduras, the species being known previously only from eastern Nicaragua and northern and eastern Costa Rica south to western Panama; in the latter region it is represented by a very distinct race *O. m. coloratus* Griscom. The races of *O. melanotis* become more deeply colored, run-



ning from north to south. The form described here is the most lightly colored of all and probably occupies a small range in the Caribbean rain forest region of Honduras. *O. m. melanotis* ranges at least from the Segovia River (Wanks River) through northern and eastern Costa Rica, while *coloratus* inhabits western Panama and possibly also the Talamanca region of Costa Rica. It is essentially a bird of the rain forest.

*RHYNCHORTYX CINCTUS PUDIBUNDUS* subsp. nov.

Gallito del Monte; Corniza

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 136511 M. C. Z.; Lancetilla (1,000 feet), Honduras; collected 17 January 1928 by James L. Peters and Edward Bangs (orig. no. 5117).

*Characters*.—Similar to *R. c. cinctus* (Salvin) but general tone of coloration of the upper parts slightly grayer, abdomen more extensively white and posterior portion of flanks less washed with buffy.

The male of this form does not exhibit the characters on which it is based to so marked an extent as does the female; the latter is much less heavily barred on the flanks and posterior underparts, the buffy wash on the underparts is wanting; the pectoral band and sides of the head are more olivaceous, less reddish brown; the auricular patch is dusky, instead of reddish.

Bangs and I started a pair in relatively open forest at 1,000 feet elevation near Lancetilla 17 January and Bangs succeeded in shooting the female. Native hunters told me that the Gallito del Monte was not uncommon on the higher ridges east of Lancetilla, and that during the winter the birds went about in small flocks. In an effort to secure additional material I supplied a native hunter with ammunition containing smaller shot than the buckshot cartridges that he was accustomed to use and sent him out. He returned after an all-day hunt with a male and a female, the former badly shot. We obtained no other specimens, but a few mangled examples were occasionally found among the trophies of native hunters.

*Rhynchortyx cinctus* has not been met with by collectors north of Nicaragua, where it extends at least to the Rio Tuma. Specimens from Nicaragua are practically indistinguishable from birds collected in Darien.



## COLUMBIDAE

## COLUMBA RUFINA PALLIDICRISSA Chubb

*Columba pallidicrissa* Chubb, Ibis, 1910, p. 60 (Costa Rica).

## Paloma Morena

The Pale-vented Pigeon was the only species of large pigeon found in the Lancetilla valley and the only one positively identified elsewhere in the vicinity of Tela or in the lower Ulua valley. A male in exceptionally fine plumage was collected at Lancetilla 20 January and a female at Progreso 30 January.

## CHAMAEPHELIA RUFIPENNIS RUFIPENNIS (Bp.)

*Talpacotia rufipennis* Bonaparte, Consp. av., 2, 1854, p. 79 (Carthagena, Colombia).

## Palomita

The Ruddy Ground Dove is a species ranging from southeastern Mexico to Colombia, Venezuela and the Guianas. I found the bird a common resident in the region about Tela and up the Ulua valley. It is essentially a bird of the more open or brushy situations, being entirely absent from the forests. Two examples only were secured, a female at Lancetilla 8 February and a male near Urraco (52 km. west of Tela) 12 March.

## CLARAVIS PRETIOSA PRETIOSA (Ferrari-Perez)

*Peristera pretiosa* Ferrari-Perez, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., 9, 1886, p. 175 (Jalapa, Vera Cruz).

## Palomita

Five specimens were secured at Lancetilla between 20 January and 9 February; three of these were males, two were females.

The Blue Ground Dove is a fairly common resident in the region about Tela; it is absent from the forest and is seldom found in the second growth. It is seen with the greatest frequency in or about the native clearings, the pastures or abandoned banana lands.

## LEPTOTILA PLUMBEICEPS PLUMBEICEPS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Leptotila plumbeiceps* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1868, p. 59 (Vera Paz, Guatemala).

An adult female of this rare Quail Dove was taken in an overgrown pasture beside the Yoro road, close to Tela, on 13 March.



The genus *Leptotila* contains about twenty species, occurring from the Rio Grande valley in Texas south to Argentina; three or more species sometimes occur together in a given region. As they all bear superficial resemblance to one another in size and dull coloration and are always found in moist shady spots, identification is uncertain unless the bird is collected. *Plumbeiceps* is distinguished from the other Quail Doves inhabiting Honduras by its clear bluish gray crown.

LEPTOTILA CASSINI CERVINEIVENTRIS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Leptotila cervineiventris* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1868, p. 59 (Vera Paz, Guatemala).

Paloma turca

February 5 Mr. J. E. Falconer presented me with a female of this species that he had just shot in the forested hills east of Lancetilla, but no other examples were seen until 7 March, when Bangs killed another female at the edge of a pasture near Tela. After the middle of March when many of the species of forest trees had shed their leaves, resulting in the admission of more light to the forest floor, as well as forming a carpet of dry leaves that crackled at the slightest touch, we found this dove more common than we had believed. Specimens were secured 22, 25 and 29 March; the one taken on the last date was a female about to lay.

OREOPELIA MONTANA (Linn.)

*Columba montana* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 163 (Jamaica).

An adult female was taken in dense forest near Lancetilla 29 March. While this specimen constitutes the first record for Honduras, there is nothing noteworthy in the fact, since the Ruddy Quail Dove enjoys a wide range which includes the Greater Antilles and the whole of continental tropical America from Vera Cruz to Paraguay.

RALLIDAE.

CRECISCUS RUBER RUBER (Scl. and Salv.)

*Corethrura rubra* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 300 (Coban, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

Five specimens of this Rail were secured near Lancetilla, a male 20 January, a male 10 February, a male and two females 14 March. We



found these little birds not uncommon about Lancetilla where they frequented the grassy borders of little streams, at times straying out into the *potreros* during the early morning. As is usually the case with small rails, they are secretive, not flying until almost underfoot, and then giving a squeak as they rise to flutter off a short distance, to alight once more and run off through the grass or weeds.

## CHARADRIIDAE

### OXYECHUS VOCIFERUS VOCIFERUS (Linn.)

*Charadrius vociferus* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 150 (Virginia and Carolina).

The Killdeer is a species nesting in North America and wintering from the southern United States south to northern South America. Bangs and I found the birds common at the time of our arrival at Tela. They occurred in numbers on the golf links, about the edges of small sloughs and swamps, and four frequented a ploughed field close by the office building at Lancetilla. The bulk of the birds had left for the north by the middle of March, and after that time the only representatives noted were occasional stragglers.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

### TRINGA SOLITARIA SOLITARIA Wils.

*Tringa solitaria* Wilson, Am. orn., 7, 1813, p. 53, pl. 58, fig. 3 (probably the Pocono Mts., Pennsylvania).

On three successive days beginning 9 March there was a small flock of Solitary Sandpipers along the banks of the Toloa canal; a male was collected 10 March.

### ACTITIS MACULARIA (Linn.)

*Tringa macularia* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 249 (Pennsylvania).

Spotted Sandpipers were seen on several occasions on the beach at Tela and in numbers along the Palomas — Toloa canal; none were collected.



## PARRIDAE

## JACANA SPINOSA SPINOSA (Linn.)

*Fulica spinosa* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1758, p. 152 ("Panama" fixed as the type locality by Todd, Ann. Carn. mus., **10**, 1916, p. 219).

Bangs shot an immature male Jacana 28 February on the Toloa lagoon. In the region about Tela this strange bird is not uncommon in the marshes and about stagnant pools, where the surface of the water is covered with a floating mat of aquatic plants. We found them in one or two favorable situations at the very outskirts of Tela in the Toloa swamp where the railroad crosses it, about 34 kilometers west of Tela and on the Toloa lagoon. When undisturbed the birds come out into the open, walking about on the lily pads and floating vegetation, the enormous development of their toes permitting them to do this; small leads of open water are crossed with a fluttering flight. When alarmed the Jacana scuttles into the nearest cover, or takes refuge in flight.

## ARAMIDAE

## ARAMUS PICTUS DOLOSUS Peters

*Aramus pictus dolosus* Peters, Occ. papers Boston soc. nat. hist., **5**, 1925, p. 144 (Bolson, Costa Rica).

February 27 Bangs and I shot three Limpkins in the swamp along the railroad in the Martinez Creek region, 34 kilometers west of Tela; all three birds were males. Several other individuals were seen in that locality the same day. As a rule Limpkins are shy birds, preferring to spend the day in the seclusion of dense swampy woods and thickets, whence they emerge at night fall; the day on which we found them at Martinez Creek was a dark, lowering day, and no doubt they are much more active during daylight hours under such conditions.

These specimens all have the white base of the secondaries extended well along the shafts; the character upon which I based the Central American race. I have recently examined the specimen said to be from Brownsville, Texas, in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, recorded by Miller and Griscom (Am. mus. novit., no. 25, 1921, p. 13) as *Aramus vociferus holostictus* (Cabanis) and find as was to be expected, that it is an example of *dolosus*.



## THRESKIORNITHIDAE

## AJAJA AJAJA (Linn.)

*Platalea ajaja* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 140 (America australi = Jamaica from first citation).

Roseate Spoonbills are rather uncommon in the region about Tela; they are usually seen in the swamps about Toloa Creek and the Ulua River. Bangs and I saw two in flight near Martinez Creek on 27 February, and on 10 and 11 March saw two more flying a little distance apart from a flock of Wood Ibises over the Toloa swamp. On none of these occasions did the birds pass within gunshot.

## CICONIIDAE

## MYCTERIA AMERICANA Linn.

*Mycteria americana* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 140 (America calidiori = Brazil, from first citation).

On 11 March Bangs killed a male Wood Ibis, not quite adult, from a small flock that we had just started from the mud flats in the drained portion of the Toloa swamp back of La Fragua farm. This species was not uncommon in the region drained by the Palomas-Toloa canal, where it frequented the partly dried-up pools and the borders of the drainage ditches in company with myriads of ducks and herons.

## ARDEIDAE

## CASMERODIUS ALBUS EGRETTE (Gmel.)

*Ardea egretta* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 629 (Cayenne).

## Garza blanca, Egret

Egrets were common in the swamps near Martinez Creek, in the Toloa swamp and along the banks of the Palomas-Toloa canal. None were collected.

## FLORIDA CAERULEA (Linn.)

*Ardea caerulea* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 143 (America septentrionali = Carolina).

The Little Blue Heron is by far the most widely distributed of all the herons noted in the region about Tela. It is, of course, most common in the swampy regions, Martinez Creek, Toloa swamp, etc., but is also found either singly or in small numbers at the borders of muddy pools



and along small streams anywhere in the coastal district. On one occasion I flushed one from the banks of the Tela River, where it emerges from the forest above the experimental station at Lancetilla. A specimen was shot by Mr. Frederick V. Coville late in January near the experiment station; I examined this bird in the flesh, but did not skin it.

LEUCOPHOYX THULA THULA (Mal.)

*Ardea thula* Molina, Sagg. stor. nat. Chile, 1782, p. 235 (Chile).

On 10 and 11 March I saw a compact flock of at least fifty individuals along the Toloa canal. None were shot, but the flock passed by in flight at very close range, and all the field marks were plainly distinguished.

This species is placed by modern writers in the genus *Egretta* Forster (type by monotypy *Ardea garzetta* Linn.) but the characters for *Leucophoyx* Sharpe (type by monotypy *Ardea candidissima* Gmel.) are just as valid as the characters upon which many other heron genera are founded. I believe that the numerous and decomposed occipital plumes and the much elongated and decomposed neck plumes entitle this species to be placed in a monotypic genus.

HYDRANASSA TRICOLOR RUFICOLLIS (Gosse)

*Egretta ruficollis* Gosse, Birds of Jamaica, 1847, p. 338 (Burnt Savanna River, Jamaica).

A few Louisiana Herons were seen in the swamps near Martinez Creek and in the Toloa swamp. The birds were all solitary examples, not associated with other species and were seen under satisfactory conditions at very close range; none were collected.

NYCTICORAX NYCTICORAX NAEVIUS (Bodd.)

*Ardea naevia* Boddaert, Table, pl. enlum., 1783, p. 56 (Cayenne).

On 28 February two or three Black-crowned Night Herons were flushed from the bushes bordering a short canal leading from Camp Tomasa to the Toloa lagoon.

BUTORIDES VIRESCENS MACULATUS (Bodd.)

*Cancroma maculata* Boddaert, Table, pl. enlum., 1783, p. 54 (Martinique).

I shot an immature female Green Heron 11 March on the banks of the Palomas-Toloa canal. This specimen is just commencing to molt



into the plumage of the adult as evidenced by a sprinkling of fresh maroon feathers on the sides of the neck, a few ornamental dorsal plumes partly grown out; and the second, third and fourth rectrices (counting from the middle pair) on the left side of the tail are fresh, while the balance of the tail is unmolted. There can be no doubt that this example represents the breeding bird of the region, since the ovary was much more active than would be the case with a North American migrant at that season.

The wing measures 167 mm. For purposes of comparison I have measured ten adult females from the West Indies (typical *maculatus*) and obtain a range of from 156 to 173 mm., with an average of 164.6; while ten females from the eastern United States (typical *virescens*) run from 172 to 186, average 178.3. I believe that the breeding Green Herons in Central America, at least on the eastern slope, should all be referred to *maculatus*.

#### HETEROCNUS CABANISI (Heine)

*Tigrisoma cabanisi* Heine, J. f. O., 1859, p. 407 (Mexico).

On 20 February I shot a fine adult female Tiger Bittern in a tiny grassy morass bordering a small stream through scrubby second growth, not far from the Lancetilla farm.

During the course of a ride by motor boat on the Palomas-Toloca canal on 9 March I saw three of these birds, all on the return trip which was made about sunset; none were seen on the way down made by daylight nor on the more leisurely collecting excursions on the two succeeding mornings.

In flight, at least for short distances, these Tiger Bitterns take only a slight "bend" in their necks instead of the characteristic heron-like fold.

#### ANATIDAE

##### CAIRINA MOSCHATA (Linn.)

*Anas moschata* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 124 (India, error. Brazil, designated as type locality by Berlepsch and Hartert, Nov. zoöl., 9, 1902, p. 131).

Muscovy Ducks are probably not uncommon in the region about Tela, especially where there are large areas of marsh in the neighborhood of forest. Bangs and I saw a pair 27 February in the Martinez swamp and a couple of solitary individuals along the Toloa canal 10 March.



## DAFILA ACUTA TZITZIOA (Vieill.)

*Anas tzitzioa* Vieillot, Nouv. dict. hist. nat., 5, 1816, p. 163 (Mexico).

Pintails occur among the enormous flocks of ducks that in winter frequent the extensive marsh areas in the lower Ulua valley. I was unable, however, to determine in what proportion this species occurred with the next two succeeding, or what additional species might have been present.

## QUERQUEDULA DISCORS (Linn.)

*Anas discors* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 205 (North America = Virginia or Carolina).

Very large flocks of ducks, composed almost entirely of this species, were found 10 and 11 March feeding in muddy pools and back waters in the drained portion of the Toloa swamp. Several examples were shot and used as food, though no specimens were preserved.

## SPATULA CLYPEATA (Linn.)

*Anas clypeata* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 124 (coasts of Europe = southern Sweden from Fn. Suec.).

The Shoveller appears to be a not uncommon winter visitor to the northern coast of Honduras, though just what its percentage of occurrence is among the large flocks of ducks that feed on the marshes and lagoons of the Ulua valley is not known. March 10 and 11 several were seen with large flocks of Blue-winged Teal along the Toloa canal and adjacent ditches, and on the latter date one was shot to complete a satisfactory identification, but the bird was not preserved.

Only two other species of ducks have been previously recorded from Honduras. They are: — *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (Linn.), recorded from Lake Yojoa by Sclater (P. Z. S., 1858, p. 360) and Taylor (Ibis, 1860, p. 315). *Nettion carolinense* (Gmel.), recorded by Moore (P. Z. S., 1859, p. 65) from the Aloor (= Ulua) River. It is obvious that the list of ducks so far found in Honduras is very far from complete.

## PHALACROCORACIDAE

## PHALACROCORAX OLIVACEUS MEXICANUS (Brandt)

*Carbo mexicanus* Brandt, Bull. acad. St. Pétersb., 3, 1837, p. 56 (Mexico).

An immature female Mexican Cormorant was taken on the Toloa lagoon 28 February. The species is rather common throughout the extensive swamp area lying to the westward of Tela.



The specimen secured agrees with Mexican examples in its small size — wing 250; culmen 43 mm.

## FREGATIDAE

### FREGATA MAGNIFICENS ROTHSCILDI Math.

*Fregata magnificens rothschildi* Mathews, Bds. Austr., 4, 1915, p. 280 (Aruba).

Frigate birds are often seen off the beach at Tela; none were collected.

## PELECANIDAE

### PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS subsp.

We found Pelicans fairly common along the shore in the vicinity of Tela. There is little doubt that the Pelicans of the West Indies are subspecifically distinct from the birds of the southeastern United States, but the question as to which of the two forms the Pelicans of the east coast of Central America should be referred, is left in abeyance in the absence of specimens.

## CATHARTIDAE

### SARCORHAMPHUS PAPA (Linn.)

*Vultur Papa* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 86 (India occidentali, error. Brazil substituted as type locality by Brabourne and Chubb. 1912).

### Zorpe Rey

King Vultures are greatly outnumbered by the next two species, and while the bird cannot be rated as rare, nevertheless the appearance of one is not an everyday occurrence. Bangs and I met with one 14 January perched in the upper branches of a tall dead tree in a clearing in the upper Lancetilla valley; a shot fired at long range failed to secure the specimen. Mr. Paul C. Standley observed one near Tela in company with a large number of black vultures 8 March, engaged in feeding on the carcass of a horse. Dr. Thomas Barbour noticed four circling high in the air over the station at Lancetilla 18 March.

There is a belief current that wherever the King Vulture occurs, he is privileged to eat his fill of carrion undisturbed by the Turkey Buzzards and Black Vultures, and that until his hunger is satiated, the others stand back respectfully.



## CORAGYPS ATRATUS ATRATUS (F. A. A. Meyer)

*Vultur atratus* F. A. A. Meyer, Zoöl. annal., **1**, 1794, p. 290 (Florida, ex Bartram).

The Black Vulture is an abundant bird in the region about Tela and up the Ulua valley; it is largely found in and about towns and villages.

In the absence of specimens from Central America I have followed common usage in regarding these birds the same as the form inhabiting the southern United States. Apparently the only difference between *C. a. atratus* and *C. a. foetens* (Licht) is one of size and on this basis I have identified an adult female (No. 114273 M. C. Z.) from Saboga Island, Bay of Panama, as belonging to the latter small race. From the limited amount of South American material of this species at hand, I am inclined to suspect that the Black Vulture in the southern part of its South American range attains greater size than the birds inhabiting the tropical portions of that continent.

The specific name of the Black Vulture requires some slight comment. For many years it was believed that *Vultur urubu* Vieillot (Ois. Am., Sept., **1**, 1807, p. 23, pl. 2, Carolina and Florida) was the earliest name, Bartram's *Vultur atratus* being rejected since the latter author was non-binomial. All of Bartram's names, however, were validated by F. A. A. Meyer in a short-lived journal, Zoologische Annalen, published at Weimar, and of which only the first volume ever appeared.

## CATHARTES AURA AURA (Linn.)

*Vultur Aura* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1758, p. 86 ("America calidior," Vera Cruz, Mexico, substituted as type locality by Nelson, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **18**, 1905, p. 124).

Although exceeded greatly in numbers by the previous species, nevertheless Turkey Buzzards were more numerous in the region about Tela than is generally the case with this species in Central America. Whereas the Black Vulture is the species usually found about the habitations of man awaiting the offal that is thrown out, the Turkey Buzzard, on the other hand, spends much of its time on the wing, quartering back and forth above stretches of open or semi-open country.



## FALCONIDAE

## ASTURINA PLAGIATA MICRUS Mill. and Grisc.

*Asturina plagiata micrus* Miller and Griscom, Am. mus. novit., no. 25, 1921, p. 4 (4 miles northeast of Chinandega, Nicaragua).

Five examples of this bird were secured: an immature female at Lancetilla 20 January; an adult female at Lancetilla 28 March; an adult male at Tela 13 March; adult female at Progreso 31 January and an adult male 52 kilometers west of Tela, 9 March.

These five specimens are all referable to the form named by Messrs. Miller and Griscom from western Nicaragua, but I must confess that I do not see how these gentlemen secured such a satisfactory set of nonoverlapping wing measurements. My figures run smaller because the wing is measured across the chord of the primaries. Since the type locality of *A. p. plagiata* is the city of Vera Cruz I measured only specimens from Vera Cruz and southern Tamaulipas, obtaining from six males of *p. plagiata* wings running from 241 to 250 and for two females 266 to 271. A male of *micrus* of northwestern Costa Rica gives 242 and two females from western Nicaragua 258 to 265. My two males from Honduras run from 233 to 241 and the three females from 256 to 263. When viewed in series, *micrus* appears darker below, due to the deeper tone of the gray bars; also, as Miller and Griscom have pointed out, in this race the second tail bar is reduced to a series of spots, while in *p. plagiata* it is usually complete. To sum up then, *micrus* is distinguishable on the basis of a combination of three *average* characters: smaller size, deeper coloration and less conspicuously barred tail. The exact limits of the area occupied by this form have yet to be determined. It occurs in Nicaragua and Costa Rica apparently only on the Pacific slope, in the latter country south only to the Gulf of Nicoya. Specimens of this species taken by G. C. Taylor (Ibis, 1860, p. 225, recorded as *Asturina nitida?*) at Comayagua and Tigre Island, Honduras, are probably referable to *p. micrus*, but a specimen from the Swann collection taken in Salvador is certainly *p. plagiata*, while an example from the Toledo district of British Honduras is exactly intermediate. It is interesting to note that in addition to this species being unrecorded from eastern Costa Rica and eastern Nicaragua it has not been taken east of Tela, Honduras since it was not secured by Brown at Ceiba and Yaruca, nor by Townsend at Truxillo and Segovia River. The absence of this bird from a Central American collection is significant, since it is usually a rather common species, given to selecting a conspicuous perch and permitting an extremely close approach.



## RUPORNIS MAGNIROSTRIS ARGUTA Peters and Grisc.

*Rupornis magnirostris arguta* Peters and Griscom, Proc. New Eng. zööl. cl., **11**, 1929, p. 46 (Almirante, Panama).

## Gavilan

This is the common hawk of the region about Tela. It is essentially a bird of the open — the pastures, abandoned banana lands or clearings that have begun to revert. The bird seeks a rather low perch, one that is little above its surroundings; telephone poles are particularly favored. It is extremely tame and unsuspicious and may be very closely approached.

## URUBITINGA ANTHRACINA ANTHRACINA (Licht.)

*Falco anthracina* Lichtenstein, Preiz-Verz. Mex. Vög., 1830, p. 3 (Mexico).

## Gavilan Negro

An immature female was shot 7 March from a small clump of trees beside the railroad track just east of Tela. This bird had a single ovary, but developed on the right instead of the left side. Black Hawks, presumably of this species, were often seen flying high over the hillsides on the western slopes of the Lancetilla valley.

## LEUCOPTERNIS GHIESBREGHTI COSTARICENSIS W. L. Sl.

*Leucopternis ghiesbreghti costaricensis* Sclater, Bull. B. O. C., **39**, 1919, p. 76 (Carillo, Costa Rica).

## Gavilan Blanco

A series of five specimens, four males and a female, was collected at Lancetilla between 21 January and 22 February.

This large White Hawk is not an uncommon bird in the Lancetilla valley. Its usual haunts are the partly cleared hillsides, where the tall dead trees furnish suitable lookout perches, but it is also at home to a certain extent in the mountain forests. It is probable that a bird of the size and build of *Leucopternis* feeds to a large extent on small mammals and reptiles; nevertheless, the stomach of an example shot in the forest contained the feathers of a small bird. On 23 March, Bangs and I saw one at very close range in mountain forest, feeding upon a small freshly caught snake.

The note is a high-pitched, petulant squeal, very similar to that of *Buteo jamaicensis*.



These five birds from Honduras are quite typical of *costaricensis*. Of two specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy from the Toledo district, British Honduras, one is just like examples of true *ghiesbreghti* of southern Mexico, the other shows a close approach toward *costaricensis*, in having the secondaries and inner primaries invaded with black.

HERPETOTHERES CACHINNANS CHAPMANI Bangs and Pen.

*Herpetotheres cachinnans chapmani* Bangs and Penard, Bull. M. C. Z., **62**, no. 2, 1918, p. 37 (Quintana Roo, Mexico, type from Santa Lucia, Rio Hondo).

This species was met with only at Progreso, where a male was taken 30 January from the top of a tall tree in a pasture close to the town and not far from the banks of the Ulua River. In my limited field experience with this bird I have found it in cleared river lowlands where scattered tall trees remain. It generally selects a perch among the topmost branches, uttering its characteristic call at frequent intervals.

ROSTRHAMUS SOCIABILIS PLUMBEUS Ridgw.

*Rostrhamus sociabilis* var. *plumbeus* Ridgway in: — Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Hist. North American Birds, **3**, 1874 (p. 208 in key), p. 209 (Everglades, Florida).

Everglade Kites were met with only on the Toloa lagoon, 23 February. Here Bangs shot one as it flew across an open pool; another was seen within gunshot, but in a place where recovery would have been impossible. The specimen secured was a male, still immature; the measurements are: — wing 366; tail 212; culmen 30 mm.

The color characters on which this race is separated from *s. sociabilis* are not apparent in immature birds, but such examples may be distinguished by the average larger size of the northern form.

The Everglade Kite is everywhere throughout its range of local occurrence, there are few records for it anywhere in Central America, and the specimen here recorded is the first instance of its occurrence in Honduras.

FALCO ALBIGULARIS ALBIGULARIS Daud.

*Falco albigularis* Daudin, Traite, **2**, 1800, p. 131 (Cayenne).

On 6 March a pair of this Falcon was seen on a tall dead tree at the upper end of a steep hillside *potrero* at Lancetilla. Both were shot in the act of copulating, but the male was lost in a dense tangle below the



tree. Examination of the crop and stomach of the female revealed the skin, flesh and portions of the skull of a freshly killed bat in the former, while the latter organ contained many bat bones, hair and partly digested meat. It is quite possible the *F. albigularis* catches at least a part of its principal food from the more accessible roosting species of bats, since the crop contents of the specimen examined were obviously quite fresh, and the bird was not killed until about nine in the morning, nor skinned until some hours later. No other Bat Falcons were noted anywhere else in the region about Tela.

In 1918 Chubb described as new two races of this species, one from Bolivia, the other from Yucatan. I have seen no topotypical material of the former, but comparison of a small series from Yucatan with topotypical *albigularis* leads me to conclude that the Yucatan form is based on characters that are not correlated with locality, a conclusion also reached by Todd in 1922.

Hellmayr (Field mus. publ. zööl., ser. 12, no. 18, 1929, p. 455) upholds the validity of Chubb's *Falco albigularis pax* (Bull. B. O. C., 39, 1918, p. 22), from Bolivia. For the specific name he uses *rufigularis* Daudin (Traite d'orn., 2, 1800, p. 131) in preference to *albigularis* which has line anteriority on the same page, believing that the latter name is of "doubtful applicability." It seems to me that both names are equally applicable to the Bat Falcon, so I continue to use *albigularis* as its specific name.

#### FALCO SPARVERIUS SPARVERIUS Linn.

*Falco sparverius* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 90 (Carolina).

Bangs shot a male in a clearing in the upper part of the Lancetilla valley 14 January; another was seen about the grounds of the experiment station on numerous occasions. The bird collected was in a somewhat dilapidated state of plumage, both outer rectrices were missing and the rest worn or broken, the feathers of the dorsal tract were being renewed as were those of the crown. It is of interest to note that the unmolted interscapulars had a subterminal black bar, while the fresh ones were immaculate.

#### PANDION HALIAËTUS subsp.

An Osprey was seen off the beach at Tela between 14 and 17 February. It was too far off to observe the head markings and for this reason subspecific identification is not attempted. Griscom (Am. mus. novit.,



no. 235, 1926, p. 13) has shown that *P. h. ridgwayi* Maynard breeds along the coasts of Yucatan and northern British Honduras. *P. h. carolinensis* (Gmel.), the North American breeding form, also occurs in winter over the Caribbean region.

## BUBONIDAE

### PULSATRIX PERSPICILLATA SATURATA Ridgw.

*Pulsatrix perspicillata saturata* Ridgway, Bull. U. S. nat. mus., no. 50, pt. 6, 1914, p. 758 (Santo Domingo, Oaxaca, Mexico).

I obtained a freshly killed example of this owl from a native hunter, who shot it near Lancetilla on the evening of 17 January. This is the first record for this species for Honduras, though its occurrence was to be expected, since its range extends from southern Mexico into South America. The race, ranging northward from western Panama, is apparently more numerous in Panama and Costa Rica than from Nicaragua northward.

### CICCABA VIRGATA CENTRALIS Griscom

*Ciccaba virgata centralis* Griscom, Bull. mus. comp. zoöl., **69**, no. 8, 1929, p. 159 (Chivela, Oaxaca, Mexico).

On 9 March, while staying at Mr. George Ascough's camp on the Palomas-Tolosa canal, 52 km. west of Tela, I purchased a live specimen of this species from a laborer, who had come upon it in the woods, and knocked it down with the flat of his machete. The bird was an adult female. *C. virgata* occurs in two phases of plumage, a light phase in which the ground color of the underparts is largely white or buffy and a darker phase in which the entire underparts, face, and sides of the head have a strong rufescent wash. The light phase appears to predominate in the northern half of the bird's Central American range; the rufescent birds are more numerous from Nicaragua southward.

## PSITTACIDAE

### ARA MACAO (Linn.)

*Psittacus macao* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1758, p. 96 (South America. Pernambuco, Brazil, adopted as type locality by Hellmayr, Abh. K. Bayer. akad. wiss., 1906, p. 577).

A male was secured 52 km. west of Tela 10 March. The big Red and Yellow Macaw is widely spread, but nowhere common in the region



about Tela and in the lower Ulua valley. At Lancetilla macaws were seen almost daily, usually in the late afternoon or early evening; a pair appearing from across the hills to the eastward and flying with measured wing beat shoulder to shoulder several gunshots high across the valley and passing out of sight beyond the western rim.

Macaws are among the most picturesque of all tropical birds, and always lend a touch to the landscape, particularly when flying towards the sun; at such a time the brilliant scarlet of the underparts stands out strikingly, but at all times their form with the long tail streaming out behind like a plume, their measured wing beat, their habit of flying side by side, scarcely ever changing their relative position, all command more than a passing glance as the birds pass overhead.

The note is very parrot-like, but lower pitched, more deliberate and of much greater volume.

#### ARATINGA ASTEC ASTEC (Souancé)

*Conurus astec* Souancé, Rev. et mag. zoöl., (2) 9, 1857, p. 97 (Mexico).

#### Perriko

Small flocks of paroquets were seen occasionally near Lancetilla, but the only positive identification was made 20 February when one member of a flock of four or five birds was secured from the top of a tall tree in the upper part of the valley.

#### AMAZONA AUROPALLIATA (Less.)

*Psittacus (Amazona) auro-palliatus* Lesson, Rev. zoöl., 5, 1842, p. 135 (Realejo, "Central America," i.e. Nicaragua).

Bangs shot a female yellow-naped parrot on the Palomas-Toloca canal 10 March.

#### AMAZONA AUTUMNALIS AUTUMNALIS (Linn.)

*Psittacus autumnalis* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 102 (America).

I shot a pair of this parrot 21 February at a point on the railroad about five km. west of Tela. Here several pairs frequented a citrus grove, doing considerable damage to the ripening oranges and grapefruit.



## AMAZONA ALBIFRONS NANA Mill.

*Amazona albifrons nana* Miller, Bull. Am. mus. N. H., **21**, 1905, p. 349 (Calotmul, Yucatan).

This species was identified positively only on the Palomas-Toloca canal, where on 11 March I took a mated pair from a flock of four or five pairs feeding upon the fruit of a species of shrub growing abundantly on the banks of the canal.

## EUCINETUS HAEMATOTIS HAEMATOTIS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Pionus haematotis* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 300 (Vera Paz, Guatemala).

Mr. F. V. Coville on 29 March shot a female Red-eared Parrot at an elevation of about 1,000 feet in the hills west of Lancetilla. The bird would have laid shortly.

Many of the small parrots seen flying high over the Lancetilla valley, or heard in the surrounding forested hills, may quite possibly have belonged to this species.

## ALCEDINIDAE

## MEGACERYLE TORQUATA TORQUATA (Linn.)

*Alcedo torquata* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, **1**, 1766, p. 180 (Martinica, Mexico = Mexico, ex Brissonian reference).

Mr. Coville shot a female Rio Grande Kingfisher along the Tela River at Lancetilla on 5 February; I secured a male on the Palomas-Toloca canal 9 March. This species is not uncommon in the Tela region, especially beside the larger and more sluggish water courses and open bodies of water. It is less numerous along the clear, swift-running streams.

Recent authors (Chapman 1926, Wetmore 1926, Kennard and Peters 1928) have refused to agree with Bangs and Penard in their contention (Bull. M. C. Z., **62**, no. 2, 1918, p. 53) that specimens of *M. torquata* from South America and Panama represent a recognizable subspecies. With considerably more material than was available to the latter gentlemen I have gone into the matter anew and conclude that for the present it is advisable to recognize only one South American race, *Megaceryle torquata stellata* (Meyen) of southern Argentina and



Chile, referring to *torquata* all the birds from the Rio Grande, Texas, south to the range of *stellata*. A large series from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward might show that Mexican birds average slightly larger with more nearly immaculate undertail coverts, in which event *torquata* would be the name for the Mexican birds and *cyanea* the name for the bird of Central America south until it meets *stellata*. *M. t. stictipennis* (Lawr.) of the Lesser Antilles is quite a distinct form and need not be considered here.

MEGACERYLE ALCYON ALCYON Linn.

*Alcedo alcyon* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 115 (America).

We found the Belted Kingfisher common and widely distributed throughout the Tela region.

CHLOROCERYLE AMAZONA (Lath.)

*Alcedo amazona* Latham, Ind. orn., 1, 1790, p. 257 (Cayenne).

Bangs shot a female Amazon Kingfisher on 26 January beside the Tela River at Lancetilla. This species is the most numerous of the family in the region about Tela and may be found along any of the open water courses. During a heavy rain that fell on 18 and 19 February when the whole valley was more or less under water, I saw two of these birds perched on telephone wires beside the branch railroad line running to Lancetilla, watching for food in the miniature lakes formed by the overflowed drainage ditches, places ordinarily overgrown with grass and haunted by *Sporophila*.

CHLOROCERYLE AMERICANA ISTHMICA (Goldm.)

*Ceryle americana isthmica* Goldman, Smiths. misc. coll., 56, no. 27, 1911, p. 1 (Rio Indio, near Gatun, Canal Zone).

A female of this species was collected at Lancetilla by Bangs on 12 February. Other examples were seen occasionally along the Tela River and smaller streams leading into it.

*Isthmica* is best distinguished from *septrionalis* by its average smaller size; the males have the rufous breast band wider, encroaching on the white of the lower foreneck; the female has the anterior underparts slightly more buffy than the corresponding sex of *septrionalis*.



## CHLOROCERYLE AENEA STICTOPTERA (Ridgw.)

*Ceryle superciliosa stictoptera* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **2**, 1884, p. 95 (Sisal, Yucatan).

I collected a female of this bird 10 March on the Palomas-Tolosa canal. Schott's Kingfisher is rare in the Tela region; Bangs and I did not meet with it at all in the Lancetilla valley, and saw but two or three along a six-mile stretch of the Tolosa canal.

## MOMOTIDAE

## ELECTRON PLATYRHYNCHUM MINOR (Hart.)

*Prionirhynchus platyrhynchus minor* Hartert, Nov., zool., **5**, 1898, p. 448 (Panama)

On 17 January I shot a male of this species at an altitude of about 800 feet, in the forest covering the hills eastward from Lancetilla. No others were noted. The bird is either rare or accidental in Honduras, since it has not been previously recorded north of southeastern Nicaragua.

The single specimen shows some slight differences when compared with a series from Costa Rica and Panama, but additional material is required to confirm these differences; especially when considering a member of a family whose members show so much individual variation.

## ELECTRON CARINATUM CARINATUM (DuBus)

*Prionites carinatus* DuBus, Bull. acad. roy. Belg., **14**, pt. 2, 1847, p. 108 (Guatemala).

A not uncommon species in the forested hills about Lancetilla, where a male was taken 20 March and a mated pair 25 March, the latter birds at an elevation of about 1,200 feet. It is a bird not easily seen and may be readily overlooked until one becomes familiar with its note, a sound similar to that obtained by blowing across the mouth of an empty bottle. Even then the bird is not always seen, for it chooses a perch high in some forest tree where it sits motionless, concealed from below by the dense foliage. At other times, however, the perch selected is within a few yards of the ground, and then a cautious approach may disclose the bird. Each time the note is uttered the tail is depressed slowly — not jerked sideways.



*EUMOMOTA SUPERCILIOSA BIPARTITUS* Ridgw.

*Eumomota superciliaris bipartitus* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **25**, 1912, p. 90 (Cacoprieto, Oaxaca).

Three specimens were collected at Lancetilla as follows: a male 9 February, a male 6 March and a female 27 March. I encountered this species only in the Lancetilla valley where it was rather uncommon. It appears to occur only at low altitudes and always in the vicinity of streams.

This bird is entitled to high rank among the beautiful birds of the world. It is seen to best advantage sitting motionless close by a pool of water from which the morning sun is reflected into the shadows above. At such times its soft blended colors relieved by the conspicuous torquoise marks on the head and breast, and its graceful form, certainly raise it to a position attained by few birds anywhere.

*MOMOTUS MOMOTA LESSONII* Less.

*Momotus lessonii* Lesson, Rev. zoöl., 1842, p. 174 (Realejo, Nicaragua).

Three males of Lesson's Motmot were collected at Lancetilla 15 January; 5 and 6 February; the species is nowhere common in the Tela region.

I believe that there are but two species in the genus *Momotus*, the chestnut-crowned one, for which the oldest name is *mexicanus* of Swainson, and the so-called "blue-crowned," for which Linné's *momota* is the earliest name. Chapman in his account of the distribution of the Motmots (Bull. Am. mus. nat. hist., **48**, art. 2, 1923, pp. 27-59) recognizes two species of the former group and no less than six of the latter. It seems to me, however, that the blue-crowned group, extending from eastern Mexico south to Brazil and Paraguay, is but a single species divisible into twenty geographic forms, all strictly representative, with no two occurring in any one locality, and separable in degree of difference only.

*HYLOMANES MOMOTULA* Licht.

*Hylomanes momotula* Lichtenstein, Abh. ak. wiss. Berol for 1838, 1839, p. 449, pl. 4 (Valle Real, Mexico).

I collected a female Tody Motmot 10 February in humid forest, at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet, on the hills east of Lancetilla, and a male at the same place 22 February; no others were seen.



*H. m. obscurus* Nelson certainly does not cover the range assigned to it by Ridgway, and unless it is a very local race confined to the type locality, which I doubt, it cannot be maintained; the differences are not constant, nor even average, but appear to be purely individual, light and dark birds occurring together throughout the range of the species from southern Mexico to Darien.

Little is known about the exact distribution and life history of this bird, it being seldom met with by collectors. Its range appears to be discontinuous, since there is a hiatus in its distribution from north-western Costa Rica to the Canal Zone. It is probably more numerous in Guatemala whence the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy possesses a good series of "trade skins."

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

### NYCTIDROMUS ALBICOLLIS ALBICOLLIS (Gmel.)

*Caprimulgus albicollis* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 1030 (Cayenne).

Ten specimens were secured, all close to Tela; a male 4 February; two males and four females 6 February; three males 4 March. The first specimen listed was surprised during the day roosting on the ground in the midst of a clump of beach grape close to the shore. The others were all killed on the golf links by the simple expedient of jacking them with a pocket flashlight on moonlight nights.

The *cuejo* is a very common resident, showing a marked preference for dry scrubby situations. After sundown the birds come out into the open and at such times are to be found in large numbers along the railroad; they are especially active during the period of the full moon. In spite of their abundance they are scarcely ever seen during the day time.

## APODIDAE

### STREPTOPROCNE ZONARIS ALBICINCTA (Cab.)

*Hemiprocne albicincta* Cabanis, J. f. O., 1862, p. 165 (Guiana).

Bangs shot a White-collared Swift (sex not determined) 26 January from a small flock circling low over the Tela River near Lancetilla. The species was observed on two occasions in late January, when a flock was seen high over the upper end of the Lancetilla valley. On 16 March a flock appeared about the experiment station for about an hour in the



morning, and on the 21st the flock was again present several times during the morning.

The single bird collected constitutes the first record of the species for Honduras. It is clearly referable to the form known to occur from northern South America north to Costa Rica and marks a considerable northward extension of range. Huber (*Auk*, **40**, 1923, p. 302) described *S. z. bouchellii* from Eden, northeastern Nicaragua, giving as the only character the narrower, more mottled in front, white collar. This character is not of subspecific value, however, but depends on age or individual variation, the birds with narrow mottled collars occurring together with wide white-collared examples in a series of *mexicana* and are likewise frequent in a good series of *albicincta* from Costa Rica.

#### CHAETURA RICHMONDI Ridgw.

*Chaetura richmondi* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **23**, 1910, p. 53 (Guayabo, eastern Costa Rica).

Seven specimens, all from Lancetilla, a female 16 January, a male and a female 18 January, a male, two females, and one not sexed 22 January.

Throughout the entire period that Bangs and I spent at Lancetilla, a large flock of these swifts appeared from the upper end of the valley at least once every day, hawking over the cleared portions of the lower and middle reaches. The flock usually arrived shortly before sunset and remained for twenty minutes or so before retiring again: sometimes the flock came down at noon, at other times about two or three o'clock, but the afternoon visits were of short duration and in addition to the evening flight. As the month of March advanced, the numbers of this swift and the frequency of its visits to Lancetilla diminished.

Richmond's Swift was also seen 9-11 March near the Palomas-Tolosa canal.

#### TROCHILIDAE

##### PHCETHORNIS SUPERCILIOSA LONGIROSTRIS (Delattr.)

*Ornismya longirostris* Delattre, Echo du monde savant, no. 45, 1843, col. 1070 (Guatemala).

Eight examples of this large dull-colored humming bird were secured, three males and four females, at Lancetilla between 20 January and 3 March; a male at Progreso 31 January. This is a common species in



the Tela region. During January and February the birds were widely distributed both on the hills and in the lowlands and occurred in forest, second growth and abandoned banana lands. After the first of March they were found chiefly in dense second growth on heavy underbrush near water where the males called (or "sang") persistently. This note was given from a perch never over three feet from the ground in a shady thicket, the bird sitting motionless, but each utterance accompanied by a jerk of the tail.

In feeding, the Guatemalan Hermit shows a predilection for large red blossoms; it is certainly insectivorous to some extent, since specimens sometimes were found to have diptera or hymenoptera in the oesophagus when shot.

The series from northern Honduras is somewhat intermediate between *longirostris* and *cephala* (a poorly marked form), but as a whole it is best referred to the former race, though two or three specimens show a very close approach to the latter.

#### PHOETHORNIS ADOLPHI SATURATUS Ridgw.

*Phoethornis adolphi saturatus* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **23**, 1910, p. 54 (El Hogar, Costa Rica).

Two males, Tela, 7 and 13 March. Not uncommon resident. This species was found to frequent moist shady spots, feeding on small flowers close to the ground. It is an extremely hard bird to collect, usually appearing suddenly to hover at arm's length from the observer, and then disappearing like a flash. From early March onward it resorted to dense thickets, usually in damp locations, there to deliver its "song" from a perch not over a foot or eighteen inches from the ground. In such situations it is almost impossible to see the bird, for its note seems to come from several directions at once, and it is only by the spasmodic jerking of the tail during the utterance that the bird is located.

*P. a. saturatus* is distinguished from *P. a. adolphi* Gould by the average deeper color of the underparts, more dusky chin, deeper chestnut edgings of the upper tail coverts, and usually more rufous, less grayish, subterminal area on the central rectrices, this color extending onto the white tips which in *saturatus* are sometimes entirely rusty. I believe, however, that Ridgway is wrong in restricting the range of *a. adolphi* to southeastern Mexico and in referring the birds from Guatemala and British Honduras to *saturatus*, skins in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy from the two latter countries are just like Mexican speci-



mens. The two examples from Tela, while not quite typical of *saturatus*, are much nearer that form, to which I unhesitatingly refer them.

AGYRTRINA CANDIDA (Bourc. and Muls.)

*Trochilus candidus* Bourcier and Mulsant, Ann. soc. phys. et nat., **9**, 1846, p. 326 (Coban, Guatemala).

We first found this species at Progreso, where I collected a male and two females 30 January; Bangs took a female at Lancetilla 26 February and a male 2 March.

AMIZILIS TZACATL TZACATL De la Llave

*Trochilus tzacatl* De la Llave, Regist. trim., **2**, 1833, p. 48 (Mexico).

Eight specimens of this common and widely distributed bird were secured: two males and three females at Lancetilla between 18 January and 30 March; two males at Progreso 31 January; one male at Tela 13 March.

THALURANIA COLOMBICA TOWNSENDI Ridgw.

*Thaluranian townsendi* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **10**, 1888, p. 590 (Segovia River, Honduras).

Six specimens of this rare Humming Bird were taken, all at Lancetilla: four females were secured between 15 and 23 January; no more of that sex were certainly identified after that date. The first male was killed 2 February and the second on 19 March close to the spot where the first one was secured.

I believe that *T. townsendi* should be reduced to the status of a subspecies of *T. colombica*. It certainly is a representative form of that species which occurs in Central America north to Nicaragua as *T. c. venusta* Gould. The differences between *townsendi* and *venusta* are not as great as they appear at first glance, but are rather those of degree.

ANTHRACOTHORAX PREVOSTII GRACILIROSTRIS Ridgw.

*Anthracothonax prevosti gracilirostris* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **23**, 1910, p. 55 (Bolson, Costa Rica).

The Slender-billed Mango is an uncommon species in the Tela region, the only example seen was a female shot beside the Tela River at Lancetilla 27 March. This single specimen, with a culmen measuring only



25 millimeters, is clearly referable to the small-billed race inhabiting Costa Rica and Nicaragua. From the limited material available, I suspect that *gracilirostris* is the lowland form in both eastern Nicaragua and Honduras, while *p. prevostii* extends on the high slopes south to Nicaragua, whence the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy has a specimen collected by Richardson labeled "Matagalpa, 1894." Mr. Griscom tells me that there is no reason to doubt the fact that this bird came from Nicaragua, but that Matagalpa must refer to the department of that name, of course in that portion lying within the Caribbean drainage area.

#### HELIOTHRYX BARROTI (Bourc. and Muls.)

*Ornismya barroti* Bourcier and Mulsant, Ann. soc. d'agric. Lyon, **6**, 1843, p. 48, pl. 4 (Cartagena, Colombia).

*Trochilus barroti* Bourcier, Rev. zoöl., **6**, March, 1843, p. 72 (Cartagena).

Two males: Lancetilla 19 and 26 January. This is a rare Humming Bird in the Tela region, the two specimens listed being the only individuals found. The first one was seen two or three times daily feeding from the large bluish flowers of a vine growing over the porch of the house Bangs and I occupied; after the bird was collected no others were seen there. The other specimen was shot as it sat perched on one of the lower branches of a willow, growing in a low moist spot in an abandoned clearing.

To my mind it is an open question whether Bourcier first named this species alone in the Rev. Zoöl., Mar., 1843 or whether he named it jointly with Mulsant in the Ann. soc. agric. Lyon sometime during 1843. I am inclined to favor the former citation, since it occurs in a well-known and generally available serial, and with a more or less exact date of publication.

#### HELIOMASTES LONGIROSTRIS PALLIDICEPS (Gould)

*Heliomaster pallidiceps* Gould, Intr. troch., 1861, p. 139. (Mexico and Guatemala, type from Jalapa, Vera Cruz.)

On 31 January I shot a male of this handsome hummer near Progreso while the bird was hovering momentarily before the flowers of a vine in an abandoned banana plantation.

#### ARCHILOCHUS COLUBRIS (Linn.)

*Trochilus colubris* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1758, p. 120 (Carolina to New England).

Three Ruby-throated Humming Birds were collected: a female at Lancetilla 9 February, a male five kilometers west of Tela 21 February,



a female near Tela 28 March. They were found rather numerous 21 February on a small flowing tree extensively planted as a hedge and for live fence posts, known commonly as "madre de cacao."

While this is a common wintering species throughout Central America as far as western Panama, it has not been previously recorded from Honduras.

### TROGONIDAE

I see no reason for splitting the genus *Trogon* into four genera as was done by Ridgway and recent authors who have followed him. My conception of the use of a genus is as a vehicle for expressing similarities. When a group of similar species further divides into smaller groups in which slight, external structural modifications appear, it seems to me that these differences are best expressed by the use of the subgenus if they are regarded of any more than specific value.

#### TROGON PUELLA

*Trogon puella* Gould, P. Z. S., 1845, p. 18 (Escuintla "S. Am." = Guatemala or Chiapas).

A male and two females were taken 22 February, 14 and 22 March respectively. This species was met with only at Lancetilla where it inhabited the forested hills, the three examples collected were the only ones seen; they were encountered at elevations of between 800 and 1,200 feet.

There is a considerable range both in color and in marking in a long series from nearly all points in the range of the species, but the differences seem due entirely to the age of the bird, perhaps in the case of old skins to a gradual fading. The wide white tips occasionally found in both sexes on three outer pair of rectrices are associated with traces of immaturity elsewhere on the plumage, particularly with coarser vermiculation on the wing coverts and paler scarlet on posterior underparts.

#### TROGON MELANOCEPHALA MELANOCEPHALA Gould

*Trogon melanocephala* Gould, Mon. trog., ed. 1, pt. 2, 1835, pl. 12 (state of Tamaulipas, Mexico).

Six examples of the Black-headed Trogon were secured: a male at Lancetilla 9 February, and females at the same locality 24 and 25 February and 2 March, a pair at Tela 7 March. Both this and the succeeding species were not uncommon in the Tela region; of the two



species the present one is the more numerous. Both species are of similar appearance in the field, frequent the same situations, i. e. the scrub and second growth in the valley bottoms, cleared hillsides and pasture trees; their notes are also much the same — at least I never learned to distinguish between them.

Gould apparently intended to describe this species prior to the appearance of his Monograph of the Trogonidae, for in his original description he refers to the P. Z. S., pt. 3, 1835, as the first place of publication of the name. In that part he does describe three Mexican trogons; but *melanocephala* is not among them, neither does it appear in another paper in the P. Z. S. for 1834 in which he described other trogons. The type locality as given by Gould is "Tamaulipas, a district of Mexico between Vera Cruz and the Bay of Honduras." No doubt the state of Tamaulipas is meant, but Europeans' ideas of American geography were even hazier then than now, if such a thing is possible.

#### TROGON VIOLACEUS BRACCATUS (Cab. and Hein.)

*Aganus braccatus* Cabanis and Heine, Mus. Hein., pt. 4, 1863, p. 184 (Mexico).

*Trogon caligatus* Gould, Mon. trog., ed. 2, pt. 1, 1858, pl. 7 (nec *Trogon caligatus* Gould, 1838)!!!

This trogon is represented in the collection by three males and a female taken at Lancetilla between 24 January and 4 March and a female from Progreso shot 30 January.

The greatest confusion exists as to the correct name of the Gartered Trogons of Central America and northern South America. This confusion is due primarily to the superb indifference with which all ornithologists have regarded the colored plate and description of Gould's *Trogon caligatus* (Mon. Trog., ed. 1, pt. 3, 1838, pl. 7) and also to the disregard by most authors of the differences between the birds of northern Central America and those of southern Central America as later pointed out by Gould himself,<sup>1</sup> by Lawrence who named<sup>2</sup> the bird from Panama, by Cabanis<sup>3</sup> and by Bangs.<sup>4</sup>

The facts are as follows. In the third part of his first edition of his Monograph of the Trogonidae, Gould described and figured *Trogon caligatus* for the first time. The new species was based on a single

<sup>1</sup> Mon. trog., ed. 2, 1858.

<sup>2</sup> *Trogon concinnus* Lawrence, Ann. lyc. nat. hist. N. Y., 7, 1862, p. 463.

<sup>3</sup> Mus. Hein., pt. 4, 1863.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. M. C. Z., 39, no. 6, 1903, p. 144-145.



specimen, a male, without locality, but obtained by Gould in Paris from a collection of South American birds. Neither the plate nor the description agrees with birds from Central America; the top of the head is shown as being iridescent blue, whereas in Central American birds this color is confined chiefly to the occiput; the color of the posterior underparts is of exactly the same shade of orange-yellow that serves to distinguish *concinuus* Lawrence from the race inhabiting the region from southeastern Mexico to Honduras, while the vermiculation on the wing coverts of the bird figured is not so fine as in that race. The bird figured and described as *Trogon caligatus* by Gould in the second edition of his Monograph of the Trogonidae is an entirely different bird from that of the first edition; the figures and text accurately describe the bird occurring in southern Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras that was later described as *braccatus* by Cabanis and Heine. In the last paragraph of the text to this plate is Gould's astonishing explanation, that the plate in the first edition had the head colored blue by mistake, and he amplifies his explanation further by saying "how the error arose I cannot imagine, and had I not still by me the original specimen from which the figure was taken and colored I might not have detected the mistake I had made and which is duly corrected in the accompanying plate."

The question now arises whether it is possible to accept Gould's correction, made twenty years after his self-styled error. There are several reasons why it is unlikely that Gould made any error at all. In the first place, I do not see how such a careful ornithologist could possibly have made the mistake in coloring the plate, and then the same mistake in describing the bird. To me it is entirely certain that in the twenty years that elapsed between the appearance of the first and second editions of the Monograph of the Trogonidae, Gould in some manner managed to transpose the type specimen or made a mistake in believing that the bird he "still had by him" was the one that he figured. In the second place, at the time of the appearance of the first edition, material from northern Central America and southern Mexico was not finding its way into Europe in any appreciable amounts but at that time it was coming in in quantities from northwestern South America. In the third place Gould unmistakably figured a bird now known to occur in the then easily accessible lower Magdalena valley in Colombia, a bird that was not recognized as distinct until Chapman named it *Chrysotrogon caligatus columbianus* (Bull. A. M. N. H., 33, 1914, p. 607, Opon, Colombia), a name that must now fall as a synonym of *Trogon caligatus* Gould.



The slight modifications upon which the genus *Chrysotrogon* Ridgway are based are of specific rather than of generic value. The races of the species are, together with the characters of the males: —

*Trogon violaceus braccatus* (Cab. & Hein.)

Southern Mexico to Honduras

Top of head slaty, iridescent portion of head confined to occiput; posterior underparts clear yellow; a white line separating the iridescent breast from the yellow abdomen.

*Trogon violaceus concinnus* Lawr.

Costa Rica, Panama, western Colombia, western Ecuador

Like *braccatus* but smaller, and posterior underparts orange yellow.

*Trogon violaceus caligatus* Gould

Magdalena valley and Santa Marta region in Colombia

Similar to *concinnus* but top of head largely iridescent purplish blue; white pectoral band smaller.

*Trogon violaceus violaceus* Gmel.

Venezuela; Trinidad, the Guianas and northern Brazil

Similar to *caligatus* but vermiculation of wing coverts and secondaries much finer; white tail bars narrower and tarsi less heavily feathered.

*Trogon violaceus ramonianus* Dev. & Des M.

Upper Amazonia

*Ramonianus* lacks the white breast band, and the posterior underparts are a deeper orange yellow, otherwise it is very close to *violaceus*.

*Trogon violaceus crissalis* (Cab. & Hein.)

Eastern ? Brazil

The available material from eastern Brazil and the lower Amazon valley is too meagre to characterize the bird of that large area, which is certainly not *ramonianus*, indeed there appear to be at least two races involved.

TROGON MASSENA MASSENA Gould

*Trogon massena* Gould, Mon. trog., ed. 1, pt. 3, 1838, pl. 16 and text (Guatemala).

Five specimens of Prince Massena's Trogon were taken, all at Lance-tilla between 24 January and 22 February. One of the birds collected on the former date is a male, the other four are females. This is a bird of the heavily wooded tropical forest covering the hillsides, where it is



not uncommon. On 29 March I shot two males sitting together on the same limb. At first I took them to be a pair, as one was "bowing" to the other in what appeared to be a courtship performance. One of the birds was too badly mangled by the charge to skin, and the other was entirely smeared with a sort of sap or fruit gum, even the toes being stuck together by the substance.

## CUCULIDAE

### PIAYA CAYANA THERMOPHILA Scl.

*Piaya thermophila* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 368 (tierra caliente of Mexico and in Guatemala).

Three males and three females of this wide-ranging bird were secured at Lancetilla between 18 January and 3 March.

The "pajaro leon" was not uncommon in the Tela region. It was always found in bushes or low second growth.

### CROTOPHAGA SULCIROSTRIS SULCIROSTRIS Swains.

*Crotophaga sulcirostris* Swains., Philos. mag., n. s., 1, 1827, p. 440 (Mexico).

A female, Lancetilla 26 January. The Groove-billed Ani, if not the commonest, is at least the most conspicuous bird in the Tela region. It is to be found in all the pastures, and in any clearing, however small, in which horses, mules or cattle are pastured.

## RAMPHASTIDAE

### RAMPHASTOS SULPHURATUS BREVICARINATUS Gould

*Ramphastos brevicarinatus* Gould, Mon. ramphast., ed. 2, 1854, pl. 3 and text (western side of the Isthmus of Panama).

Three males of this species were collected at Lancetilla between 15 January and 10 February; a male and a female were secured at Progreso 1 February. The Short-keeled Toucan is widely distributed throughout the region about Tela, occurring both in the hills and lowlands as well as in second growth, abandoned clearings and natural forest. It is held in esteem as a game bird, not because of any difficulties connected with its pursuit (shot gun ammunition in Honduras is never wasted on uncertainties), but because of the delicacy of its flesh.

Specimens from Ceiba, Lancetilla and Progreso, while somewhat



intermediate in size between *R. s. sulphuratus* and *R. s. brevicarinatus*, agree with the latter race in having a well-developed red margin to the feathers bordering the yellow breast; as a whole the series is best referred to *brevicarinatus*. Intermediates from Guatemala, British Honduras and Honduras are referred by Ridgway to the typical form. Available material from the two former countries is insufficient to enable me to form an independent opinion. Perhaps it will some time be necessary to name the bird inhabiting the region between Mexico and the Segovia River, but this should not be attempted until additional material is obtained, not only from the lowlands, but also from the altitudinal range of the species. Two characters claimed by Ridgway as among the criteria for distinguishing the two races are the lesser extent of the red terminal portion of the bill and the deeper yellow throat and foreneck of *brevicarinatus*, but both of these seem to me to be too variable to serve as good diagnostic characters.

#### PTEROGLOSSUS TORQUATUS TORQUATUS (Gmel.)

*Ramphastos torquatus* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 354 ("novae Hispaniae maritimis" = southeastern Mexico).

Bangs and I collected a series of seven of this Aracari, three males and four females, at Lancetilla between 14 January and 20 February. This is also a common species of general distribution; it is somewhat more numerous in the Tela region than *Ramphastos* and is often seen in small flocks, sometimes numbering as high as eight individuals.

#### SELENIDERA SPECTABILIS Cassin

*Selenidera spectabilis* Cass, Proc. ac. nat. sci. Phila., 1857, p. 214 (Cocuyos de Veragua, Panama).

On 24 January I shot three males and two females of this species in the open forest above Lancetilla at an elevation of about 1,200 feet; 20 March Bangs shot another male at the identical spot. No other individuals were met with.

*Selenidera* is generally considered a rare bird in Central America; its known range was from eastern Nicaragua south to northwestern Colombia. Its occurrence in northern Honduras was therefore quite unexpected. I have carefully compared a series of this bird extending from Honduras to Darien and can find no differences at all.



## PICIDAE

## CENTURUS SANTACRUZI PAUPER Ridgw.

*Centurus santacruzi pauper* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **10**, 1888, p. 582 (Truxillo, Honduras).

Eight specimens of this Woodpecker were secured: two males and four females at Lancetilla between 14 January and 2 March, two females at Tela 8 and 13 March respectively.

This is the common Woodpecker in the region about Tela, confined chiefly to the pastures, clearings and second growth.

## SPHYRAPICUS VARIUS VARIUS Linn.

*Picus varius* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, **1**, 1766, p. 176 (North America = Carolina).

While this species was not actually seen or collected, Bangs and I noted its characteristic healed puncture marks made on the trunk of a tree growing near Tela. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been recorded from Honduras previously from Siguatepeque and Ceiba.

## VENILIORNIS OLEAGINUS SANGUINOLENTUS (Scl.)

*Chloronerpes sanguinolentus* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 60, pl. 141 (Omoa, Honduras).

One male, Lancetilla 14 January. One of the first birds collected on my first day afield in Honduras was the specimen listed above. The species was not met with again. At the time I shot it, the bird was working its way up a *Cecropia* tree growing in abandoned cleared lands closely bordering the Tela River at Lancetilla.

## CELEUS CASTANEUS (Wagl.)

*Picus castaneus* Wagler, Isis, 1829, p. 515 (no type locality. Vera Cruz, designated by Cory, Field mus. publ. zool., ser. **13**, pt. 2, no. 2, 1919, p. 453, note d).

Three examples, all females, were collected at Lancetilla 18 January, 6 and 9 February; no others were observed. The first two of these were shot at elevations of between 1,000 and 1,200 feet on the forested hills on the east side of the valley; the third was taken at a lower elevation in second growth woodland on the western side.



Ridgway has already (Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 6, 1914, p. 142) noted the differences shown in the color of the crests between birds from the northern part of the range of the species and those from the southern part. These differences he believes are to a certain extent seasonal, and after examining a good series from nearly all parts of the range extending from southeastern Mexico to western Panama I have come to the same conclusion. The birds with the palest crests are found usually from April to July, while the darker-crested individuals predominate from October to February. Furthermore, birds with light-colored crests seem to have the feathers longer and I believe probably represent the old adults. The whole question, however, must remain open until an even longer series of comparable dates is acquired from the entire range, including birds in first immature plumage.

SCAPANEUS GUATEMALENSIS GUATEMALENSIS (Hartl.)

*Picus guatemalensis* Hartlaub., Rev. zoöl., 1844, p. 214 (Guatemala).

Three males were taken at Lancetilla 19 January, 5 and 6 February. This species is not uncommon in the forested hills, sometimes also being found on dead trees left standing in clearings.

CEOPHLOEUS LINEATUS SIMILIS (Less.)

*Picus similis* Lesson, Compl. Oeuvr. Buffon, **20**, 1847, p. 204 (San Carlos, république du Centre-Amerique = Salvador).

One male, Lancetilla 5 February. The White-billed Pileated Woodpecker frequents the same situations as the foregoing species but appears to be less numerous.

PICUMNUS OLIVACEUS DIMOTUS Bangs

*Picumnus dimotus* Bangs, Bull. M. C. Z., **39**, no. 6, 1903, p. 146 (Ceiba, Honduras).

A male Honduras Piculet was taken at Lancetilla 27 March and a breeding female at Tela the following day. The bird is rather uncommon in the region about Tela. I obtained a momentary glimpse of one near Lancetilla 8 February, close by the spot where the male was subsequently taken. Shortly after collecting the female, the insect-like trill and faint tappings of a second bird were heard, and one or two glimpses obtained as the bird was seen searching among the terminal



twigs of a branch near the ground. All the birds either seen or taken were in low ground, grown up to a tangle of vines and bushes, and near water.

## FORMICARIIDAE

### TARABA TRANSANDEANA TRANSANDEANA (Scl.)

*Thamnophilus transandeanus* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1855, p. 18 (Guayaquil, Ecuador).

On 27 March I shot a male among the bushes bordering the Tela River near Lancetilla; no other examples were taken. This species appears to be less common in the northern part of its range than in the southern portion.

In my opinion *T. transandeanus* is a distinct species, and not a race of *major* as claimed by Hellmayr.

### THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS INTERMEDIUS Ridgw.

*Thamnophilus intermedius* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **10**, 1888, p. 581 (Truxillo, Honduras).

Three examples of this Ant-shrike were taken: a male at Lancetilla 26 February, a male at Tela 7 March and a female at Tela 13 March; the latter contained a fully formed egg in the oviduct that would have been laid shortly.

This bird is not uncommon in the dense lowland tangles of vines and bushes, where it is more often seen than heard.

Due to some unaccountable lapse both Ridgway and Hellmayr refer to this race by the name of *mexicanus* (*Thamnophilus doliatus mexicanus* Allen, Bull. A. M. N. H., **2**, no. 3, 1889, p. 151, new name for *Thamnophilus affinis* Cab. and Hein. "Xalapa" = Jalapa, Vera Cruz, pre-occupied). The distinctness of the Mexican bird was first noted by Cabanis and Heine, but unfortunately they gave it a name already in use in the genus, so Dr. Allen renamed it. However, a year previously Ridgway had noted that the bird extending from southeastern Mexico to eastern Costa Rica differed from the race inhabiting Panama and, apparently ignorant of Cabanis and Heine's previous action, described it as a distinct species. Redescribing the bird, however, as Ridgway did, is the equivalent of renaming as Dr. Allen did, and since the Mexican and Honduranian birds are the same, Ridgway's name with nearly a year's priority takes precedence.



## THAMNISTES ANABATINUS ANABATINUS Scl. and Salv.

*Thamnistes anabatinus* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 299 (Choctum and Vera Paz, Guatemala).

A female, 1,200 feet, 10 February, a male 29 March, both at Lancetilla. Like several other Central American Ant-birds this species appears to be much more common in Costa Rica and Panama than toward the northern limits of its range. The two specimens listed here, both obtained in heavy open forest, were the only representatives met with, and constitute the first records for Honduras. These birds agree with specimens from British Honduras, undoubtedly representing typical *anabatinus*, and extend the range of that race. There is still, however, a considerable gap, from which no specimens are available, between the present known southern limit of the range of the northern form and the northern known limit of *saturatus* in Costa Rica.

## MYRMOTHERULA SCHISTICOLOR SCHISTICOLOR (Lawr.)

*Formicivora schisticolor* Lawrence, Ann. lye. nat. hist. N. Y., 8, 1867, p. 172 (Turrialba, Costa Rica).

A single specimen of this species was secured from a mixed forest flock at an elevation of about 1,000 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla. This was the only example secured; apparently this bird too is more numerous further south than near the northern limit of its range which is Guatemala. There is no previous record for Honduras.

## FORMICARIUS ANALIS INTERMEDIUS Ridgw.

*Formicarius moniliger intermedius* Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 21, 1908, p. 194 (forest near Manatee Lagoon, British Honduras).

Bangs shot an adult female at an elevation of about 1,500 feet in humid forest on the hills east of Lancetilla.

This bird agrees with specimens from British Honduras; it in no way resembles *umbrosus*, the race of eastern Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Where the two races meet is not yet known. The species is here recorded from Honduras for the first time.



## FURNARIIDAE

## SYNALLAXIS ERYTHROTHORAX ERYTHROTHORAX Scl.

*Synallaxis erythrothorax* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1855, p. 75, pl. 86 (Coban and Honduras).

Eight specimens, both sexes, were collected at Lancetilla 15 January to 30 March. The Rufous-breasted Spinetail is a fairly common species in the bushy lowlands of the Tela region. It is a bird of the dense thickets, not particularly shy or secretive, but unresponsive to "squeaking." However, if the collector remains motionless near the bird's haunts, it will sooner or later show itself and is easily shot.

March 27 a pair was taken in the act of completing a nest, a hollow structure of twigs with a long tunnel entrance, the whole at least eighteen inches long and eight inches thick. March 30 another bird was shot at the same nest, a male with testes only slightly enlarged.

This species is previously recorded from Honduras only as far east as the Chamelicon River; it doubtless finds its eastern limit somewhere between Tela and Ceiba.

## AUTOMOLUS OCHROLAEMUS AMUSOS subsp. nov.

Three specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 14 January, 17 and 23 March.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 136726 M. C. Z., collected at Lancetilla, Honduras (500 feet elevation), 23 March 1928 by James L. Peters (orig. no. 5556).

*Characters*.—Similar to *A. o. cervinigularis* (Scl.) but much paler throughout, especially the pileum, sides of head and underparts; the feathers on the lower border of the throat much less (sometimes not at all) edged with dusky. Similar also to *A. o. exsertus* Bangs, but somewhat darker, especially the throat, and with the supraorbital stripe much more prolonged posteriorly. Very much paler than *hypophaeus* Ridgway of eastern Costa Rica.

*Remarks*.—Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 5, 1911, p. 218 note) first pointed out the differences that separate this form from that of Mexico, but his series was too inadequate to confirm the characters. I have been fortunate in having for comparison a series of sixteen birds from Vera Cruz, British Honduras and Honduras, all of them collected within the last three years. Compared with birds that have lain in the museum for twenty-five years or more, the



gradual change of color in these older skins is very noticeable, the deep olive brown on the back of the fresh birds giving way to a more reddish brown, while the change in shade of the flanks is even more marked. It is necessary, therefore, to compare fresh with fresh and old with old to insure accurate comparison. A series of five birds, collected in the Cayo district, British Honduras, by Mr. O. L. Austin, Jr. in 1928, appears intermediate between this form and *cervinigularis*, but nearer the latter, while three old skins from eastern and southeastern British Honduras, after making due allowance for change of color, are intermediate also, but nearer *amusus*. The three birds collected at Yaruca, Honduras, by W. W. Brown in 1902, also belong to the form described here. Its range in the light of present knowledge extends from southern British Honduras to about the latitude of Ceiba in Honduras.

I suspect that this new bird will be found to average smaller than its northern representative, but the bulk of the material has been collected by a well-known professional, whose sexing is so notoriously inaccurate, that measurements based on it are misleading.

## DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

### GLYPHORYNCHUS SPIRURUS PECTORALIS Scl. & Salv.

*Glyphorynchus pectoralis* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 299 (Vera Paz, Guatemala).

Three males, three females, Lancetilla 18 January to 22 March. This is not an uncommon species in the heavily forested hills, where it was found between elevations of 750 and 1,500 feet. It is a silent, unobtrusive bird, one or more of which attach themselves to the small forest flocks as they roam about. In actions *Glyphorynchus* is very much like a tree creeper (*Certhia*).

Hellmayr (Catalogue of Birds of America, pt. 4, 1925, p. 353, note c), points out characters for the birds from Costa Rica southward, differences which in his estimation, if confirmed, might prove to characterize a recognizable subspecies. Examination of a considerable series of *Glyphorynchus spirurus* in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy from Vera Cruz to western Colombia furnishes the necessary proof of the constancy of the characters pointed out by Hellmayr and I name the bird



## GLYPHORYNCHUS SPIRURUS SUBLESTUS subsp. nov.

*Type*.—No. 141255 M. C. Z., adult male from Changuinola, north-western Panama, (Caribbean slope), collected 16 October 1928 by H. Wedel (orig. no. 993).

*Characters*.—Similar to *G. s. pectoralis* but throat averaging darker, more cinnamomeous, less ochraceous; pale streaks on the posterior underparts narrower and less numerous.

*Range*.—Costa Rica southward at least to western Colombia, probably to western Ecuador and western Venezuela.

*Material examined*.—*G. s. pectoralis*—VERA CRUZ: Buena Vista, 1 ♀. GUATEMALA: 1 "trade skin." HONDURAS: Lancetilla, 3 ♂, 3 ♀.

*G. s. sublestus*—COSTA RICA: La Vijagua, 12 ♂, 11 ♀; Carillo, 3 ♀; Térraba valley, 5 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 not sexed. PANAMA: Caribbean slope of Volcan de Chiriqui (7,000 feet), 1 ♀; Chiriqui lagoon region, 4 ♂, 3 ♀; Darien, 5 ♂, 8 ♀. COLOMBIA: Rio Cali, 1 ♂.

## DENDROCINCLA ANABATINA ANABATINA Scl.

*Dendrocincla anabatina* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 54, pl. 150 (Omoa, Honduras).

A male of this Woodhewer was taken 6 February at 1,200 feet in the hills near Lancetilla, while a female collected 19 March was shot in dense second growth in the valley; no other specimens were taken. *D. a. saturata* Carriker (Ann. Carn. mus., 6, 1910, p. 649, El Pozo de Térraba) is not as well marked a form as might be imagined by a perusal of the original description. Carriker appears to have compared fresh skins with old, while the dusky spots on the tail tips are due to age. The only constant character by which to separate *saturata* is the more uniformly olive pileum, but rarely intermixed with ochraceous on the occiput.

## SITTASOMUS GRISEICAPILLUS SYLVIODES Lafr.

*Sittasomus sylvioides* Lafresnaye, Rev. et mag. zoöl., 1850, p. 590 ("Mexico"; State of Vera Cruz, designated by Bangs and Peters, 1928).

Edward Bangs killed a male Mexican Woodcreeper at an elevation of 1,200 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla; this was the only example met with.

*Sittasomus griseicapillus gracileus* Bangs and Peters (Bull. M. C. Z., 68, no. 8, 1928, p. 392, Chichen Itza, Yucatan), a race characterized by smaller size and paler coloration, appears to range only through Yuca-



tan and eastern British Honduras. Birds collected in the Cayo district, western British Honduras, by Mr. O. L. Austin, Jr., are *S. g. sylvioides*; the Lancetilla example listed here is also indistinguishable from specimens from Vera Cruz.

#### XIPHORHYNCHUS NANUS CONFINIS (Bangs)

*Dendroornis nana confinis* Bangs, Bull. M. C. Z., **39**, no. 6, 1903, p. 150 (Ceiba, Honduras).

Three specimens as follows: a male, Lancetilla, 1,200 feet, 6 February; a male, Lancetilla, 800 feet 23 March; a female, Lancetilla 29 March. These were the only ones encountered; all of them were found in the heavy forest.

Hellmayr (Catalogue of Birds of America, pt. 4, 1925, p. 293-300) considers *nanus*, *costaricensis* and *confinis* as subspecies of the South American *guttatus*, but it seems to me that the shorter, thicker and less decurved bill of the latter species renders it specifically distinct. If this character is of specific value, then the following forms from northern South America also should be regarded as races of *nanus*: *rosenbergi* Bangs of the Cauca valley, and *demonstratus* Hartert and Goodson of northwestern Venezuela. In any event the *nanus* group, as outlined here, is just as distinct from the *guttatus* group as the latter is from the *flavigaster* association.

#### LEPIDOCOLAPTES SOULEYETHI INSIGNIS (Nels.)

*Picolaptes compressus insignis* Nelson, Auk, **14**, 1897, p. 54 (Otatitlan, Vera Cruz).

Bangs shot a male of this Wood Hewer on 13 March in the outskirts of Tela, and on 27 March I killed a female in low growth near the river at Lancetilla. In the field this species is very similar in habits and general appearance to the preceding species, but is less of a forest bird.

#### DENDROCOLAPTES CERTHIA SANCTAETHOMAE (Lafr.)

*Dendrocops sancti-thomae* Lafresnaye, Rev. mag. zoöl., 1852, p. 466 ("Sanctae Thomae insula").

I shot a male of this species 12 March near Urraco (52 km. west of Tela). It was the only one of its kind encountered.

Lafresnaye believed that his type came from the island of Saint Thomas, where it most assuredly did not. Salvin and Godman (Biol.



centr. Am., 2, 1891, p. 192) believed that this was a misinterpretation for the small Honduranian town of Santo Tomas, but it is extremely unlikely that this was so. However, since definite type localities must be fixed, it is just as well to adopt this suggestion of the authors of the Biologia and consider Santo Tomas, Honduras, as the type locality.

## TYRANNIDAE

### PLATYRINCHUS CANCROMINUS CANCROMINUS Scl. & Salv.

*Platyrrhynchus cancrominus* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 299 (Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

But two specimens of this curious little Tyrant Bird were secured: a male in the forested hills at an elevation of 750 feet near Lancetilla 6 February, and a female in dense jungle beside a path near the Tela River, also at Lancetilla 20 February.

*Platyrrhynchus cancrominus dilutus* Miller and Griscom (Am. mus. novit., no. 159, 1924, p. 4) is a slightly paler form which appears to be confined to northwestern Nicaragua.

### PLATYRINCHUS CORONATUS SUPERCILIARIS Lawr.

*Platyrrhynchus superciliaris* Lawrence, Ibis, 1863, p. 184 (Isthmus of Panama).

On 29 March I shot a female of this bird as it sat perched over a springy pool in open forest near Lancetilla. It was the only example either seen or secured. Its capture marks a considerable northward extension of range, since the bird has never been taken on the Caribbean slope of Central America, north of Costa Rica.

### TOLMOMYIAS SULPHURESCENS CINEREICEPS (Scl.)

*Cyclorhynchus cinereiceps* Sclater, Ibis, 1859, p. 443 (Oaxaca, Mexico).

Bangs collected a female Flat-billed Flycatcher near Lancetilla on 5 February.

### TODIROSTRUM CINEREUM FINITIMUM Bangs

*Todirostrum cinereum finitimum* Bangs, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 17, 1904, p. 114 (San Juan Bautista, Tabasco, Mexico).

Four specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 18 January and 25 February. This bird is a rather common resident in the Lancetilla valley, where



it was almost invariably found in low dense thickets bordering streams. On 31 March a nest was found in an acacia growing on a gravel bar in the Tela River. The nest was suspended from the end of a twig about five feet from the ground; it was composed of fibres and rootlets; entrance was from the side. No eggs had been laid; in fact, the structure was almost transparent, the lining not having been applied.

ONCOSTOMA CINEREIGULARE (Scl.)

*Todirostrum cinereigulare* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1856 [1857], p. 295 (Cordova, Vera Cruz, Mexico).

On 31 January, I shot a single specimen, sex not determined, near Progreso. This bird was taken in a row of trees and bushes separating an abandoned section of banana land from a *potrero*. No others were secured.

While this species and *olivaceum* (eastern Panama to Colombia) are no doubt representative forms, the differences both in color, dimensions and proportions of the two are so great that they are best regarded as species as was done by Ridgway, and not as subspecies as Hellmayr considers them.

PIPROMORPHA ASSIMILIS ASSIMILIS (Scl.)

*Mionectes assimilis* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 46 (Cordova and Guatemala. Cordova, Vera Cruz, Mexico is now accepted as the type locality).

A male of this Flycatcher was collected 30 January at Progreso at about the same spot where the *Oncostoma* was secured. Two additional males were shot at Lancetilla 20 and 23 March; both of the latter were in undergrowth in heavy forest on the hillsides.

MICROTRICCUS SEMIFLAVUS SEMIFLAVUS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Tyrannulus semiflavus* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860, p. 300 (Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

On 6 February, at an elevation of about 1,200 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla, I came upon a large mixed flock of small birds, some feeding close to the ground, others high up in the tall trees. A very small bird some sixty feet over my head was shot and proved to be a female of this rare species. Whether it is really rare or whether it is always high up in the tallest trees, thereby escaping observation, I do not know — at all events it is of infrequent occurrence in collections.



I am not at all sure that Hellmayr (Birds of America, pt. 5, 1927, p. 482) is right in considering *Tyrannulus brunneicapillus* Lawrence as a subspecies of *semiflavus*. The two birds are very distinct, but the material available is too meager to enable me to dispute his conclusions.

#### TYRANNISCUS VILISSIMUS PARVUS Lawr.

*Tyranniscus parvus* Lawrence, Ibis, 1862, p. 12 (Panama).

I shot a male and a female of this bird on 14 January in second growth bordering the Tela River above Lancetilla; no others were collected.

Both these specimens agree with a series of *parvus* from Costa Rica and Panama not only in size but in coloration; they measure as follows: — ♂, wing 50; tail 44; bill from base 9.5; tarsus 17. ♀, wing 45; tail 36; bill from base 9.5; tarsus 15. One skin of *v. vilissimus* from Guatemala, sex not determined, gives wing 58; tail 51; bill from base 11.5; tarsus 17.5.

Salvin and Godman record *T. v. vilissimus* from "San Pedro," Honduras (Biol. Centr. Am. Aves, 2, 1888, p. 33) and on the strength of this record that form is believed to be the race inhabiting Honduras. Either the identification or locality of Salvin and Godman's bird is wrong, for if San Pedro Sula, a town in the lowlands of the Chamelicon valley is meant, the probabilities are that the birds there would be *parvus*, though should their record refer to some tiny and abandoned "San Pedro" in the mountains it is quite probable that *vilissimus* would be the bird at higher elevations.

#### MYIOZETETES SIMILIS SUPERCILIOSUS Bonap.

*Tyrannus superciliosus* "Swains." Bonaparte, P. Z. S., 1837 [= 1838], p. 118 (Mexico).

*Muscicapa texensis* Giraud, Sixteen spec. Texas birds, 1841, pl. 1 (Texas).

Four males and three females of Giraud's Flycatcher were collected at Lancetilla 16 January to 4 March, and a female at Tela 13 March. This is a common bird in the Tela region, frequenting almost any clearing, tall trees along the water courses, or suitable situations bordering the railroad right of way.

There is no alternative but that of accepting Bonaparte's name for this bird over Giraud's. Swainson described (Orn. draw., pt. 4, 1836, pl. 46) *Tyrannula superciliosa* which is now regarded as a synonym of *Muscicapa trivirgata* Wied [= *Conopias trivirgata trivirgata* (Wied)].



In the P. Z. S. for 1837 Bonaparte used *Tyrannus superciliosus* under the misapprehension that he was dealing with the same bird described by Swainson a year or two previously, *but*, although Bonaparte credited this name to Swainson, he placed it in a different genus, so it cannot be regarded as a homonym, and as he described the bird his name is not a *nomen nudum*, and having three years priority over Giraud's *texensis*, the latter name must go into synonymy. These facts were first pointed out by Nelson (Auk, **17**, 1900, p. 124) who had the temerity to violate the sanctity of Giraud's work, but for some reason his perfectly sound change was not adopted, and as a result a nomenclatural error that a child could detect has been perpetuated for nearly another generation.

PITANGUS SULPHURATUS GUATIMALENSIS Lafr.

*Saurophagus guatimalensis* Lafresnaye, Rev. et mag. zoöl., 1852, p. 462 (Guatemala).

A common bird, noisy and conspicuous, throughout the region about Tela, absent from the forest or heavy second growth. Males were taken at Tela 29 February and 5 March and a female at Martinez Creek, 34 km. west of Tela, on 27 February.

Birds from southern Texas and western and northern Mexico (Sonora, Sinaloa, Colima, Oaxaca [Chihuetan], Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz [Orizaba and Motzorongo]) have paler yellow underparts and lighter olive-brown upper parts and average larger. They may be distinguished under the name of *Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus* (Kaup), type locality Zacatecas, Mexico, while Lafresnaye's name quoted above is applicable to the bird of extreme southern Mexico, south to Costa Rica and western Panama (Caribbean slope). The type of *guatimalensis* is in excellent condition and unfaded; it certainly represents the more deeply colored southern form. Specimens from the extreme southern range of the subspecies average a trifle darker but are best placed with *guatimalensis*.

MYIODYNASTES LUTEIVENTRIS LUTEIVENTRIS Scl.

*Myiodynastes luteiventris* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 42 (Vera Paz, Guatemala and Orizaba, Mexico).

I shot a male at Lancetilla 28 March and a pair near the same spot 31 March. Although actively engaged in field work in the region about Tela and especially in the Lancetilla valley from the middle of January this species was not seen until 26 March when I observed a specimen



feeding with other species in a small wild fig tree on the outskirts of Tela; the bird shot two days later was in a small tree in a pasture, which we passed three times a day. I am inclined to suspect that the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher may be partly migratory, even in the Central American portion of its wide range.

MEGARYNCHUS PITANGUA MEXICANUS (Lafr.)

*Scaphorhynchus mexicanus* Lafresnaye, Rev. et mag. zoöl., 1851, p. 473 (Mexico).

Boat-billed Flycatchers were found only at Lancetilla, where a pair was collected 9 February and a male 3 March. Very few others were noted. The birds shot 9 February were together in a tall dead tree towering above the second growth on one of the spurs running out from the hills forming the western rim of the valley; the other example was shot by Bangs in an isolated pasture tree. The female collected 9 February lacks the yellow pigment in her plumage, the underparts being whitish, faintly washed with straw yellow, while the olive of the upper parts is replaced by gray of a shade similar to that of the back of *Tyrannus tyrannus*; the crown patch is a dull reddish brown.

MYIOBIUS SULPHUREIGYGIUS AUREATUS Bangs.

*Myiobius xanthopygus aureatus* Bangs, Proc. N. E. zoöl. cl., 4, 1908, p. 27 (Divala, western Panama).

Two specimens of this Flycatcher were taken in the forested hills near Lancetilla: a male at 750 feet, 6 February, and a female at 1,200 feet, 22 March.

This bird has one structural peculiarity that, so far as I am aware, has not been published: it is almost impossible to skin a *Myiobius* over its head, and it would be entirely impossible, were it not for the fact that the brain case is not a hard bony structure, but of a thick semi-pliable (almost leathery) type of bone.

EMPIDONAX ALBIGULARIS AUSTRALIS Mill. and Grisc.

*Empidonax albigularis australis* Miller and Griscom, Am. mus. novit., no. 159, 1925, p. 5 (San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua).

On 27 March, while passing a weed-grown pasture through which a trail led to the house that Bangs and I occupied at Lancetilla, I shot a strange-looking small *Empidonax* that upon dissection proved to be a



female. Although I had been constantly on the lookout for members of this genus, and shot them on sight, the campaign yielded but four other specimens, all belonging to the next two species listed.

This example agrees closely with the original description of *australis* and with a strictly comparable specimen of that race from Costa Rica. *Empidonax albigularis* is a rare bird, and the records for it are scattered geographically, though no doubt it will eventually be found to enjoy practically continuous distribution from Vera Cruz to Panama. The present record extends the known range of the subspecies from northern Nicaragua; the nearest record geographically for the typical form is Coban, Guatemala.

EMPIDONAX TRAILLII TRAILLII (Aud.)

*Muscicapa traillii* Audubon, Birds of America, folio ed., 1, 1828, pl. 45 (woods along the prairie lands of the Arkansas River, Arkansas).

I shot an Alder Flycatcher, sex not determined, at Lancetilla 25 February. The bird is in a very worn state of plumage.

EMPIDONAX MINIMUS (Baird and Baird)

*Tyrannula minima* Baird and Baird, Proc. ac. nat. sci. Phila., 1, 1843, p. 284 (Carlisle, Pennsylvania).

Three Least Flycatchers, all females, were taken as follows: Progreso 31 January; Tela (5 km. west) 21 February; Lancetilla, 29 March. The last is undergoing a prenuptial molt involving the body tracts and tail; the primaries are worn, but secondaries and wing coverts appear fresh.

MYIARCHUS CRINITUS (Linn.)

*Turdus crinitus* Linné, Syst. nat., ed 10, 1, 1758, p. 170 (Carolina).

A male, Lancetilla 16 January; two females, Lancetilla 26 February.

Our general practice was to shoot any Myiarchus (except *nigricapillus* after the first week) on sight. The three Crested Flycatchers given here were the only ones positively identified.

MYIARCHUS TYRANNULUS NELSONI Ridgw.

*Myiarchus magister nelsoni* Ridgway, Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 4, 1907, addenda, p. 903 (Alta Mira, Tamaulipas).

A single female of this bird was taken near Tela 26 March; no others were found. The species has been previously recorded from several



points on the coast of northern Honduras, but never more than a single bird from each locality, though Sclater lists (Catalogue of Birds of British Museum, 14, 1888, p. 251) nine specimens in the Salvin-Godman collection taken on Ruatan Island by George Gaumer.

*MYIARCHUS TUBERCULIFER NIGRICAPILLUS* Cab.

*Myiarchus nigricapillus* Cabanis, J. f. O., 1861, p. 250 (Costa Rica; Bonilla, eastern Costa Rica, designated as type locality by Miller and Griscom, Am. mus. novit., no. 159, 1925, p. 7).

Sixteen specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla and Tela, 14 January to 30 March. Cabanis' Flycatcher is a very common resident throughout the Caribbean lowlands in the region about Tela. It is absent from the heavy forest, but occurs in practically all other situations.

In order to identify the series noted above, it has been necessary to study the considerable number of skins representing all the Mexican and Central American races of *Myiarchus tuberculifer* in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. The results, while agreeing in the main with those obtained by Miller and Griscom (supra), are sufficiently different to make it of interest to place them on record here.

*Myiarchus tuberculifer lawrencei* (Giraud). This subspecies does not occur south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

*M. t. connectens* Miller and Griscom is a valid race, but does not occupy the wide range originally assigned to it. It appears to extend from southern Mexico through Guatemala, western British Honduras, Salvador, southwestern Nicaragua and perhaps northwestern Costa Rica.

*M. t. nigricapillus* ranges on the Caribbean slope from southeastern British Honduras south to the Talamanca valley in Costa Rica, and occupies the greater part of northern and western Costa Rica south to the Térraba valley. Additional topotypical material of this race might necessitate the naming of the birds inhabiting the northern portion of the range as outlined here.

*M. t. bangsi* Nelson not only occupies southwestern Costa Rica but extends across to the Caribbean slope in extreme southeastern Costa Rica and the Almirante Bay region of Panama.

*TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS CHLORONOTUS* Berl.

*Tyrannus chloronotus* Berlepsch, Proc. int. orn. congr., 1907, p. 474 (Temax, Yucatan).

Seven specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla and Tela, 16 January to 8 March. Lichtenstein's Kingbird is one of the very common, familiar



species in the region about Tela. It is primarily a bird of the open, being found along the larger streams, the railroad right of way where it perches on the telephone wires, and in the pastures where tall isolated trees provide suitable perches.

For a useful review of the races of *Tyrannus melancholicus* Vieill. cf. Bangs and Penard, Bull. M. C. Z., 64, no. 4, 1921, p. 377-382.

## PIPRIDAE

### PIPRA MENTALIS MENTALIS Scl.

*Pipra mentalis* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1856, p. 299, pl. 121 (Cordova, Vera Cruz).

Eight specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 14 January to 20 March. The Red-headed Manakin is a common resident, equally at home in the second growth woods of the river valleys, or the heavy forests where it ranges to the summit of the surrounding hills which, in the immediate vicinity of Tela attain an elevation of about 1,800 feet. The males are very conspicuous, never being still or silent for a moment; the females are much more quiet, but for this very reason are often collected inadvertently, since their lack of distinguishing marks make them difficult to identify in the field.

### MANACUS CANDEI (Parzud.)

*Pipra candeï* Parzudaki, Rev. zoöl., 1841, p. 306 (Truxillo, Honduras).

Seven specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 21 January to 20 March. This Manakin is a common species, though not quite as numerous as the preceding. It is a bird of the moist lowland thickets in the valleys. The note of the male is a loud explosive "pop"; the short flights that the males make are accompanied by a distinct *whirr*, produced no doubt by the attenuated outer primaries. What has been said of the female of *Pipra mentalis* applies equally to the female of the present species; the two birds bear a close resemblance to one another in the field, but *Manacus* can always be distinguished by the orange legs.

In the Proc. N. E. zoöl. cl., 3, 1903, p. 106, Bangs described *Manacus candeï electilis* from Buena Vista, Vera Cruz. This name has been relegated to synonymy by all writers since that time. The color characters are due to season — all three of Bangs' males (he had no females for comparison) were taken in June, and the pale yellow of the posterior underparts, the chief character on which *electilis* was based, is matched by Costa Rican examples taken at the same season. There is a descending scale of measurements as one passes from north to south throughout



the range of the species, but the difference is very small. Perhaps an adequate series from Vera Cruz might uphold *electilis* as a slight geographic race on the basis of larger size, but in the light of present material it must remain a synonym.

SCHIFFORNIS TURDINUS VERAEPACIS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Heteropelma verae-pacis* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S. 1860 p. 300 (Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

The only specimen of this species secured was a male shot 14 March in the heavy forest at an elevation of about 700 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla. Another bird was seen at the same spot a few days before but was only wounded and escaped. Schiffornis appears to be much less numerous in Honduras than in the more southern parts of its range. It is, of course, an exceedingly inconspicuous bird in the field, sluggish and dull-colored. It is readily overlooked in the shadows of the forest. It possesses a very sweet whistled note, recalling that of some of the Solitaires (*Myiadestes*).

Carriker (Am. Carn. mus., 6, 1910, p. 678) is quite correct in considering *S. v. dumicola* (Bangs) (Proc. N. E. zool. cl., 3, 1903, p. 103) a synonym of *veraepacis*. The color characters are entirely individual, and the shorter tail, supposed to distinguish *dumicola*, breaks down as a character when adequate series are compared.

LANIOCERA RUFESCENS RUFESCENS (Scl.)

*Lipaugus rufescens* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1857 (1858), p. 276 (Coban, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

On 6 February I shot an adult male of this rare bird in heavy forest at 1,200 feet elevation in the hills east of Lancetilla. No other examples were noted.

I do not agree with Mr. Ridgway's view that the shiny blue-black tipped feathers found scattered on some specimens represent traces of an immature plumage, but consider that such birds are indicative of a plumage quite different from that now worn by the species and which has been lost.

COTINGIDAE

TITYRA SEMIFASCIATA PERSONATA Jard. and Selb.

*Tityra personata* Jardine and Selby, Illustr. orn., 1, pt. 2, 1827, pl. 24 (Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico).

This stocky gray and black Cotinga is not uncommon in the open and semi-open lowlands in the Tela region. Six examples were secured



at Lancetilla and Tela 21 January to 26 March. These birds average very slightly smaller than Mexican examples, but otherwise are indistinguishable from practically topotypical *personata*.

PLATYPSARIS AGLAIAE HYPOPHÆUS Ridgw.

*Platypsaris aglaiae hypophæus* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **14**, 1891, p. 467 (San Pedro Sula, Honduras).

Bangs shot a female Becard at Lancetilla 24 February. The bird was at the edge of a clearing in second growth close by the river. The single specimen, in its coloration below, is exactly like birds from Ceiba, Honduras, identified by Ridgway as *hypophæus*; it is much paler above, however, and the pileum is blackish gray of a shade lighter than in the Pacific slope *latirostris*. I strongly suspect that this grayness of the pileum is due chiefly to immaturity, since this condition is to be found in any long series of any of the races of *Platypsaris aglaiae*.

PACHYRHAMPHUS POLYCHOPTERUS CINEREIVENTRIS Scl.

*Pachyrhamphus cinereiventris* Sclater, Cat. American Birds, 1862, p. 242 (Santa Marta, Colombia).

The Gray-bellied Becard appears to be a less common bird in Honduras and Guatemala than in the more southern part of its range. According to Carriker it is more numerous in western Costa Rica than on the Caribbean slope of that country. Bangs shot a male at Lancetilla 13 March and I killed a second male at Tela 28 March. Both birds were in the lowlands in clearings beside small streams. The alleged differences on which the Central American races *similis* Cherrie (*Pachyrhamphus similis*, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **14**, 1891, p. 343) and *tantulus* Bangs and Penard (*Pachyrhamphus polychopterus tantulus*, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **31**, 1921, p. 78, new name for *Pachyrhamphus polychopterus costaricensis* Chubb, preoccupied) are founded have been well explained by Carriker (Ann. Carn. mus., **6**, 1910, p. 668). I see no other alternative but that of regarding as a single subspecies the form of *Pachyrhamphus polychopterus* ranging from Guatemala to northern Colombia. Bangs and Penard in their review of the races of *P. polychopterus* (Bull. M. C. Z., **64**, no. 4, 1921, p. 382-393), while retaining *similis* and *costaricensis* (= *tantulus*) as distinct races, pointed out that the differences were apparent only in series and intimated that the two races would probably not stand. While Bangs and Penard had a very large series assembled at the time they wrote their review, Mr. Bangs tells me now that he believes the splits of the Central American races of this species to be altogether too close.



## LATHRIA UNIRUFA UNIRUFA Scl.

*Lipaugus unirufus* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 385 (Playa Vicente, Oaxaca (or Vera Cruz?) Mexico).

Four males of this large Cotinga were taken in the heavy forest on the slopes of the Lancetilla valley, at elevations ranging from 300 to 1,200 feet. These specimens constitute the first Honduranian records. I found this bird to be rather uncommon and exceptionally wary. The note is a loud cry, very carrying, and is often given in response to the sound of the blows of a machete or an axe against a log.

Chapman has already pointed out (Bull. A. M. N. H., 36, 1917, p. 494) that he cannot distinguish specimens of *Lathria unirufa* from Ecuador and Colombia, on the one hand, from Panamanian examples on the other. In this view I agree and state further that Costa Rican specimens cannot be told from birds from Panama. For this reason I unite the birds of northwestern South America with those of the two southern Central American republics under the name of *castaneotinctus* (Hartert, Nov. zoöl., 1902, p. 610, Paramba, n. w. Ecuador) which has priority over *clara* (Ridgway, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 19, 1906, p. 120 ("Panama")). The typical form ranging from southern Vera Cruz at least to Honduras and possibly farther, is easily distinguished by its somewhat larger size and browner, less reddish tone, to the plumage. Worn birds acquire a clay-colored caste, together with a general dulling of the colors, that produces a very different appearing bird.

## LIPANGUS HOLERYTHRUS HOLERYTHRUS (Scl. and Salv.)

*Lipaugus holerythrus* Sclater and Salvin, P. Z. S., 1860 (Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala).

On 14 January, the first day I collected in Honduras, I shot a female of this species at the edge of a clearing in second growth land bordering the Tela River at Lancetilla. No other examples were met with. Brown secured only a pair at Yaruca, but the few other collectors who have worked in Honduras do not seem to have found the bird at all; thus it would seem that the species is much less numerous in Honduras than in Costa Rica for example, where Carriker calls it the "most abundant of the Cotingas."

## ATTILA SPADICEUS FLAMMULATUS Lafr.

*Attila flammulatus* Lafresnaye, Rev. zoöl., 1848, p. 47 (Colombia, *error*. Vera Cruz, Mexico, substituted as type locality by Bangs and Penard, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 35, 1922, p. 223).

On 6 February I shot a male *Attila* at an elevation of about 750 feet in the forest east of Lancetilla. In my experience this is an uncommon



bird in Central America; while generally distributed, it is nowhere common.

The subject of the color phases of the species has been dealt with by Dr. Stresemann (J. f. O., **73**, 1925, p. 274-277), that of geographic variation by Messrs. Miller and Griscom (Am. mus. novit., no. 183, 1925, p. 11-14).

### COTINGA AMABILIS Gould

*Cotinga amabilis* Gould, P. Z. S., 1857, p. 64, pl. 123 (Guatemala).

The Blue Cotinga has been recorded in Honduras from Chasniguas, Los Caminos and La Ceiba; at the latter place W. W. Brown collected over fifty specimens in about two weeks, all from the same tree. The only evidence that this species occurs in the Tela region was the finding of a few contour feathers from an adult male. These relics were picked up off the ground at the edge of the forest just east of the experiment station at Lancetilla.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

### IRIDOPROCNE BICOLOR (Vieill.)

*Hirundo bicolor* Vieillot, Ois. Am., Sept., **1**, 1807, p. 61, pl. 31 (eastern United States).

Tree Swallows were observed in considerable numbers on the Toloa swamp 10 and 11 March. These records mark a considerable southward extension of the winter range of this bird, the species not being hitherto recorded below Guatemala and British Honduras. As a general rule I am strongly opposed to giving serious consideration to sight records beyond the known or normal range of a bird, but in this case I see no reason for doubting such a record. I am perfectly familiar with Tree Swallows in life; besides these birds were seen at very close range and from all angles, both in flight and at rest, and all the field characters were plainly noted.

### PROGNE CHALYBEA CHALYBEA (Gmel.)

*Hirundo chalybea* Gmelin, Syst. nat., **1**, pt. 2, 1789, p. 1026 (Cayenne).

A pair of Gray-breasted Martins was taken near Martinez Creek, 34 km. west of Tela, 27 February, and a female at Tela 26 March.



This species is not uncommon in the region about Tela, where it is found near swamps and rivers. In such situations the birds are invariably found on dead trees or on trees with hollow limbs.

STELGIDOPTERYX RUFICOLLIS SERRIPENNIS (Aud.)

*Hirundo serripennis* Audubon, Orn. biog., 4, 1838, p. 593 (Charleston, S. C.).

Seven Rough-winged Swallows were taken at Lancetilla between 14 January and 30 March. None of these birds represents the breeding bird or the region, not even the male collected on 30 March; all are referable to the bird of the United States with one exception. This last specimen, taken 8 February, is much larger than examples from the United States, its wing of 121 mm. exceeding that of two males of *ridgwayi* from Vera Cruz by 3 and 4 mm. respectively, and greatly exceeding any of a large series of typical *serripennis*. In color it is very slightly darker than *serripennis*. It seems to me to represent a bird from some indeterminate region, but the case is best dealt with by calling attention to the differences mentioned. The question of the ranges of the races of *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* in Mexico and Central America is a most perplexing one.

TROGLODYTIDAE

HELEODYTES CAPISTRATUS CASTANEUS (Ridgw.)

*Campylorhynchus castaneus* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., 10, 1888, p. 507 (Spanish Honduras).

This bird was found only at Progreso, where an adult female was collected 31 January.

Although Ridgway himself repudiates *castaneus*, considering it indistinguishable from the Costa Rican *capistratus*, after an examination of the type of the former race, together with eight additional specimens from Honduras (San Pedro Sula and Chamelicon) kindly loaned by the U. S. National Museum, I am of the opinion that *castaneus* is a valid race. Comparing ten specimens of *castaneus* from northern Honduras with sixteen of *capistratus* from Costa Rica — sex for sex and season for season — the former birds are characterized much as Ridgway originally diagnosed them: the concealed portion of the back and scapular feathers less heavily and distinctly (often not at all) marked with black and white; the rump markings confined to the concealed portion of the feathers; in fresh plumage the upper tail coverts average



less distinctly barred. In worn plumage the Costa Rican birds have a very spotted appearance above, while birds from northern Honduras in a similar state of feather are a much more uniform brown. Specimens in worn summer dress from the Honduras-Nicaragua boundary, 180 miles from the Pacific coast, are referable to *H. c. capistratus*.

PHEUGOPEDIUS MACULIPECTUS UMBRINUS (Ridgw.)

*Thryothorus maculipectus umbrinus* Ridgway, Man. North American Birds, 1887, p. 552 (Guatemala).

Five males, two females, Lancetilla 16 January to 4 March.

This Wood Wren is one of the common birds in the Tela region, inhabiting the lowlands in a variety of situations, though it is absent from the heavy forest. It is not a bold bird, and does not choose an exposed perch from which to deliver its ringing song, nevertheless it is curious, and very easily "squeaked." It is this species whose song predominates in the bird chorus, being a loud, strong singer, frequently heard even through the middle of the day. Often several birds may be heard at the same time.

The transition between *P. m. maculipectus* of southern Mexico and *P. m. umbrinus* takes place over a wide area, resulting in a broad region of intermediacy, many of the birds in which might be referred to either race.

TROGLODYTES MUSCULUS INTERMEDIUS Cab.

*Troglodytes intermedius* Cabanis, J. f. O., 1860, p. 407 (San José, Costa Rica).

On 22 February I shot a male of this wide-ranging Central American House Wren at Lancetilla, and on 13 March another male at Tela. The species is rather uncommon; its usual haunts are about houses in clearings and in the smaller towns; it was once observed in a large *potrero*. It is absent from the forests, second growth and banana lands.

The two specimens collected are practically identical with topotypical *intermedius* from Cartago, Costa Rica, when allowance is made for difference in color due to wear, the Honduras birds being in fresh winter plumage, while the Costa Rica birds were taken in May and have the plumage abraded, especially above.

HENICORHINA PROSTHELEUCA TROPAEA Bangs and Peters

*Henicorhina prosthaleuca tropaea* Bangs and Peters, Bull. M. C. Z., 67, no. 15, 1927, p. 480 (La Vijagua, Costa Rica).

Three males, two females, Lancetilla 17 January to 29 March. *Henicorhina* is not uncommon in the heavy forest in the Lancetilla



valley, both in the lowlands and in the hills, wherever the condition of the surface is suitable. Where the forest floor is free from rocks, fallen logs or heavy undergrowth the bird is absent, but delights in spots where there are outcrops of rocks or where the ground is littered with fallen logs and luxuriant underbrush. It is an almost exclusively terrestrial species and seems to occupy much the same niche in the tropical forests that the Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis*) does in the Canadian zone woodlands of North America.

The five specimens listed here are not quite typical of *tropaea*, but are nearer to that form than to typical *prostheleuca*; a pair from Yaruca, Honduras, collected twenty-five years ago, are identical with topotypical *tropaea*. There is a gradual accumulation of evidence to show that certain subspecies supposedly restricted to southern Mexico actually extend southward into the highlands of eastern Guatemala and western British Honduras (perhaps even farther); *Henicorhina prostheleuca* is such a species, but in spite of the large amount of material available, very little of it is from the critical regions and the final elucidation of faunal limits in northern Central America requires more field work.

## MIMIDAE

### DUMETELLA CAROLINENSIS (Linn.)

*Muscicapa carolinensis* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 328 (Carolina).

The Catbird is a not uncommon winter visitor in the region about Tela. Two specimens were procured: one at Lancetilla 18 January, another at Progreso 30 January.

## TURDIDAE

### TURDUS GRAYI GRAYI Bonap.

*Turdus Grayi* Bonaparte, P. Z. S., 1837 (1838), p. 118 (Guatemala).

Four males of Gray's Thrush were secured: three at Lancetilla 20 January to 23 February and one at Tela 28 March.

This is a rather common bird of the valleys where the heavy forest has been cleared away. Its favorite haunts are where small streams trickle through the banana lands, with here and there a somewhat taller tree overtopping the rest, providing a singing perch for the males. They are more active at dawn and dusk, often coming out into the open to feed on the grounds at that time, but generally retire during



the day. The bird shot at Tela was feeding with a number of species, besides other members of its own kind, in a small wild fig tree thickly loaded with fruit.

#### HYLOCICHLA MUSTELINA (Gmel.)

*Turdus mustelinus* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 817 (New York).

On 7 March I saw, but did not shoot, a Wood Thrush beside the Tela-Yoro road, close by the former town. This species has been previously recorded from Honduras by Bangs (Bull. M. C. Z., 39, no. 6, 1903, p. 152) on the basis of seven specimens collected at Ceiba and Yaruca by W. W. Brown.

#### SYLVIIDAE

##### RAMPHOCAENUS RUFIVENTRIS RUFIVENTRIS (Bonap.)

*Scolopacinus rufiventris* Bonaparte, P. Z. S., 1837 (= June, 1838), p. 119 (Guatemala).

On 25 March I shot a female of this peculiar bird at an elevation of about 500 feet in the forested hills near Lancetilla. This specimen, which was feeding among some vines about thirty feet from the ground, was the only one encountered in the three months of my stay.

For the reasons for removing *Ramphocaenus* from the Formicariidae and transferring it to an oscine family, the reader is referred to Miller, Am. mus. novit., no. 140, 1924, p. 3 and 6, and to Chapman, Bull. Am. mus. nat. hist., 55, 1926, p. 560.

#### VIREONIDAE

##### VIREO VIRESCENS Vieill.

*Vireo virescens* Vieillot, Ois. Amer., Sept., 1, 1807, p. 84, pl. 53 (no type locality, Pennsylvania designated by Bangs and Penard, Bull. M. C. Z., 67, no. 3, 1925, p. 205).

I shot a male Red-eyed Vireo at an elevation of 1,200 feet in the hills east of Lancetilla 25 March. The bird was moving actively about, fifty feet from the ground, in some of the smaller forest trees.

##### VIREO GRISEUS GRISEUS (Bodd.)

*Tanagra grisea* Bodd., Table, pl. enlum., 1783, p. 45 (Louisiana).

On 7 March I shot a male and a female White-eyed Vireo at Tela, the birds appeared to be a mated pair; a week later a singing male was



taken near the same spot. Neither of the males is distinguishable from birds from the eastern United States, though the female is extremely small. The wings and tails of all three specimens are considerably abraded. The gonads of none of the birds showed any trace of sexual activity.

#### HYLOPHILUS DECURTATUS PUSILLUS Lawr.

*Hylophilus pusillus* Lawrence, Ann. lye. nat. hist. N. Y., 7, 1862, p. 323 (Panama railroad).

I shot a female of this species 23 January in low second growth bordering a trail in the upper Lancetilla valley. The single specimen taken agrees with examples from Panama and Costa Rica rather than with birds from Vera Cruz and the highlands of British Honduras. Birds from the lowlands of British Honduras (Toledo district) are intermediate between *H. d. decurtatus* and *H. d. pusillus* (cf. Bangs and Peters, Bull. M. C. Z., 67, no. 15, 1927, p. 483).

Under the International Code *Hylophilus* Temminck 1823 is not preoccupied by *Hylophila* Hübner 1816; consequently the use of *Pachysylvia* of Bonaparte (1850) must be discontinued.<sup>1</sup>

#### HYLOPHILUS OCHRACEICEPS PALLIDIPECTUS (Ridgw.)

*Pachysylvia ochraceiceps pallidipectus* Ridgway, Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 3, 1904, p. 219 (Angostura, Costa Rica).

The Pale-breasted *Pachysylvia* appears to be an inhabitant of forests. It was found on three occasions in the hills east of Lancetilla and on each of these occasions the bird was a member of a mixed woodland flock. The first specimen, a female, was collected 6 February at about 750 feet, the next, sex not determined, was taken 10 February at about 1,000 feet, and the third, shot at a like altitude 22 February, was so badly hit by the charge that it could not be preserved. The position of this species in the mixed flock was in the upper twigs of the taller undergrowth.

As far as Central America is concerned, this bird has a distribution very similar to that of the last, though fitting into an entirely different ecological niche. Its distribution into two geographical races from

<sup>1</sup> Since the above went to press Todd's Review of the Vireonine genus *Pachysylvia* (Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 42, 16 July 1929, p. 181-206) has appeared. I cannot agree with him in retaining *Pachysylvia* as the current generic name of the group, nor in his "lumping" of the races of *decurtata*. The series of *ochraceiceps* available to me is not sufficient to enable me to substantiate or refute his conclusions in regard to the races of that species. His remarks regarding the non-validity of *P. o. pallidipectus* would have been more convincing had he listed his material.



Panama northward is along exactly the same lines as *H. decurtatus*. The two Honduranian examples before me obviously fit in with the paler form of northern Central America and not with the darker bird of Vera Cruz and the highlands of western British Honduras, while birds from the Toledo district of British Honduras are intermediate, but a trifle near to *H. o. ochraceiceps*. Ridgway (op. cit., p. 219) lists a specimen of the latter race from the Rio de las Piedras, Honduras.

### MNIOTILTIDAE

#### MNIOTILTA VARIA (Linn.)

*Motacilla varia* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 333 (Santo Domingo).

The Black and White Warbler is an uncommon winter visitor in the Tela region. It appeared to be somewhat more numerous during the last two weeks in March, when there was evidence of more or less movement among the North American migrants.

#### HELMITHEROS VERMIVORUS (Gmel.)

*Motacilla vermivora* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 951 (Pennsylvania).

On 15 January I shot a male Worm-eating Warbler at Lancetilla, the only time the bird was met with. It has not been previously recorded from Honduras.

#### VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA (Linn.)

*Motacilla chrysoptera* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 333 (near Philadelphia, Pa.).

A specimen of the Golden-winged Warbler, whose sex could not be determined, but which from the plumage is clearly a female, was collected 19 March at Lancetilla and constitutes the first Honduranian record.

#### DENDROICA AESTIVA AESTIVA (Gmel.)

*Motacilla aestiva* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 996 (Canada).

A fairly common winter visitor from eastern North America. Specimens were taken at Lancetilla 9 February and 27 March.



## DENDROICA MAGNOLIA (Wilson)

*Sylvia magnolia* Wilson, Am. orn., **3**, 1811, p. 63, pl. 23, fig. 2 ("not many miles from Philadelphia").

The status of the Magnolia Warbler is the same as that of the preceding species. A male was taken 2 February and another 27 March, both at Lancetilla. The latter example is undergoing a prenuptial molt which involves all the anterior body tracts, the secondary coverts and the rectrices.

## DENDROICA CORONATA CORONATA (Linn.)

*Motacilla coronata* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, **1**, 1766, p. 333 (Pennsylvania).

The Myrtle Warbler winters abundantly. A male was shot 17 March at Lancetilla as a matter of record.

## DENDROICA DOMINICA ALBILORA Ridgw.

*Dendroica dominica* var. *albilora* "Baird" Ridgway, Am. nat., **7**, 1873, p. 605 (Belize, British Honduras).

On 18 January I shot a Sycamore Warbler from a small cocoanut palm growing beside the railroad track near Lancetilla.

## OPORORNIS FORMOSA (Wils.)

*Sylvia formosa* Wilson, Am. orn., **3**, 1811, pl. 25, fig. 3 (Kentucky).

A Kentucky Warbler was seen at close range, but not secured, 19 March, and the day following I saw another but likewise failed to get it. Both birds were seen near Lancetilla in thick scrubby second growth. On 19 March an increase in the numbers of North American migrants in the Lancetilla valley became apparent.

## SEIURUS AUROCAPILLUS (Linn.)

*Motacilla aurocapilla* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, **1**, 1766, p. 334 (Pennsylvania).

A few Ovenbirds were noted near Tela after the first of March, but none were collected.

## SEIURUS MOTACILLA (Vieill.)

*Turdus motacilla* Vieillot, Ois. Am., Sept., **2**, 1807, p. 9, pl. 65 (Kentucky).

Bangs collected a fine male Louisiana Water Thrush near Lancetilla 5 February. This bird, the only one seen, was found hopping about on



the rocks in the swift-flowing Tela River at a point where it emerges from the forest to flow through the second growth.

SEIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS NOTABILIS Ridgw.

*Seiurus naevius notabilis* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **3**, 1880, p. 12 (Como Lake, Carbon Co., Wyoming).

I killed a Water Thrush, 21 February, in a small citrus plantation five kilometers west of Tela. Other representatives of the species were seen from time to time throughout the region, always frequenting the muddy banks of streams, but no more were secured owing to the wariness that these birds always display while in their winter home.

GEOTHELYPIS TRICHAS BRACHIDACTYLA (Swains.)

*Trichas brachidactylus* Swainson, Anim. in menag., 1838, p. 295 (northern provinces of the United States).

The Northern Yellow-throat is not an uncommon winter visitor. None were seen, however, in January, but the species seemed to increase in numbers after the middle of February.

ICTERIA VIRENS VIRENS (Linn.)

*Turdus virens* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1758, p. 171 (off the coast of Carolina).

The only example of the Yellow-breasted Chat is a female in very badly worn plumage, collected 11 March, 52 km. west of Tela.

WILSONIA CITRINA (Bodd.)

*Muscicapa citrina* Boddaert, Table, pl. enlum., 1783, p. 41 (Louisiana).

A few Hooded Warblers were noted in the moist second growth woodlands in the Lancetilla valley; of these a female was collected 15 January.

SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA (Linn.)

*Motacilla ruticilla* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1758, p. 186 (Virginia).

Bangs shot a female or an immature male Redstart at Lancetilla 3 March, but the specimen was so badly hit that it was not preserved. The species was seen subsequently on a few occasions, but it cannot be classed as a common winter visitor.



## BASILEUTERUS CULICIVORUS CULICIVORUS (Licht.)

*Sylvia culicivora* Lichtenstein, Preis-Verz. Mex. Vög., 1830, p. 2 (Mexico).

Lichtenstein's Warbler is represented by two females, both collected in the forest on the hills east of Lancetilla; one was shot at 1,200 feet 17 January, the other at 750 feet 6 February.

While the typical race of *Basileuterus culicivorus* has been recorded from southern Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica it has never been noted from Honduras.

## FRINGILLIDAE

## GUIRACA CAERULEA CAERULEA (Linn.)

*Loxia caerulea* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 175 (Carolina).

A Blue Grosbeak was seen at Lancetilla on several occasions during late February and early March. Migrants from further south arrived on 23 March when two more were seen and one of them, a female, was secured; the following day two males and three females were seen together at the experimental station, but had moved on by noon of the same day. The species was not encountered subsequently. Brown, in 1902, shot two specimens at Ceiba the middle of January and another at Yaruca 18 February.

## ORYZOBORUS FUNEREUS Scl.

*Oryzoborus funereus* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 378 (Suchapan, Oaxaca).

Eight specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 17 January to 6 March.

Throughout the Tela region the Lesser Rice Grosbeak was found commonly in the grass and weeds bordering roadways, usually associated with the two species of *Sporophila* and with *Volatinia*. In the field the males look exactly like *Sporophila corvina* but are distinguishable by larger size and grotesquely heavy bill; the females are recognizable at a distance by the peculiar "snuff-colored" plumage. By early March the males are in full song. The song is a very pleasing melody of several seconds' duration, delivered from a high perch, usually a telephone wire, fence post or dead stub.

This species is remarkably constant in its characters over its wide range, which extends from southern Mexico to northern South America.



## SPOROPHILA MORELLETI MORELLETI (Bonap.)

*Spermophila morelleti* Bonaparte, Consp. av., 1, 1850, p. 497 (Guatemala).

Five specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla and Tela, 18 February to 28 March.

In point of numbers this Seed-eater is the most abundant bird in the Tela region, occurring in flocks up to fifty or more individuals, wherever grasses and weeds grow extensively; it also occurs in the rank growth of grasses bordering drainage ditches and small sluggish streams. The mating season commences the latter part of February. At this time the males indulge in their canary-like song, pursue the females and engage in combat with rival males. The species, however, does not breed as a unit, since the flocks hold together throughout March. At Lancetilla a large flock numbering nearly 200 individuals roosted each night in a planting of bamboo. I should imagine that this species as well as *Oryzoborus* and *Sporophila corvina* must have greatly extended their range in Central America with the increase of cleared land incident to the increase in population. They are primarily birds of the open clearings, absent from the forest and even abandoning clearings that have reverted to second growth woodland.

## SPOROPHILA CORVINA (Scl.)

*Spermophila corvina* Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 379 (Playa Vicente, Oaxaca).

Eight specimens, four males and four females, of the Black Seed-eater, were collected at Lancetilla 15 January to 6 March. Of the four species of the associational group mentioned under *Oryzoborus funereus* (cf. *antea*) this is the least numerous; nevertheless it is far from uncommon.

## VOLATINIA JACARINI ATRONITENS Todd

*Volatinia jacarini atronitens* Todd, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 33, 1920, p. 72 (Campeche, Campeche).

Seven specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 2 to 26 February. This is a common bird of the grass and weed lands, especially in moist situations where the grass grows long and rank. Commonly associated with the three preceding species, it is much more quiet and secretive, especially when in short grass, where it often runs mouse-like over the ground, not flying until nearly trodden on. The males, when singing, do not perch above the level of their surroundings, nor do they ever choose as high a perch as the other species with which they associate.



## SALTATOR ATRICEPS ATRICEPS Less.

*Tanagra (Saltator) atriceps* Lesson, Cent. zoöl., 1830, p. 208, pl. 69 (Mexico).

On 30 January I shot a male and two females of the large *Saltator* in an extensive patch of weeds a short distance southeast of Progreso. The species was not noted elsewhere.

From Vera Cruz where *S. atriceps* occurs in its most marked characteristics (complete black pectoral band and black auriculars) southward to eastern Costa Rica (from whence southward specimens of *Saltator atriceps* are referable to *S. a. lacertosus* Bangs) is a wide area of intermediacy between the two forms. The birds even from the same localities in this intermediate region vary to such an extent *inter se* that the naming of a race from that area is unwarranted, and I agree to the distribution assigned to this species by Ridgway in 1901 (Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 1, p. 561-563), but, of course, recognizing *S. a. raptor* (Cabot) the bird of Yucatan and adjacent parts of British Honduras.

## SALTATOR MAGNOIDES MAGNOIDES Lafr.

*Saltator magnoides* Lafresnaye, Rev. zoöl., 1844, p. 41 (Mexico, error. I designate southeastern Guatemala).

Five specimens of the smaller *Saltator*, a male, three females and one sex not determined, were taken in the Lancetilla valley 24 January to 4 March. This is a rather common bird in the bushy pastures in the Tela region.

Lafresnaye was mistaken about the origin of his type, now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; it could not have come from Mexico as it does not agree with specimens from that country, but is the same as examples of the race extending from Guatemala to Costa Rica, which was named *Saltator magnoides medianus* by Ridgway in the first part of the Birds of North and Middle America (1901, p. 660, 664). Fortunately fixing the identity of Lafresnaye's *Saltator magnoides* onto the form occurring from Guatemala south to Costa Rica does not entail any serious alterations in nomenclature. The forms, from north to south, will stand

*Saltator magnoides gigantodes* Cabanis

Pileum grayish, usually washed with black anteriorly; buff throat-patch more restricted; black jugular band wider. Southern Mexico, in states of Vera Cruz and Oaxaca.



*Saltator magnoides magnoides* Lafresnaye

Pileum, particularly the posterior part, washed with green, the black wash when present confined chiefly to the forehead; buff throat-patch more extensive and black jugular band narrower. Guatemala to Costa Rica and Caribbean slope of northwestern Panama.

*Saltator magnoides intermedius* Lawrence

Pileum usually greenish, with a gray wash anteriorly; buff throat-patch more extensive; black jugular band much narrower, often broken; gray of underparts distinctly brownish. Southwestern Costa Rica, and western Panama (Chiriqui) to the Canal Zone.

## SPIZA AMERICANA (Gmel.)

*Emberiza americana* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 872 (New York).

There is not sufficient evidence at hand to determine the status of the Dickcissel as a migrant or as a winter visitor to the portion of Honduras under discussion in this paper. I strongly suspect that in the Caribbean lowlands the bird occurs only in migration. I did not meet with it in the region about Tela until 29 March, when two were seen together under most favorable circumstances at Lancetilla. Both birds were perched on a fence wire running beside the railroad track over which I was accustomed to pass six times a day. I feel certain that the birds were new arrivals from the south; they were not noted again. Several years ago when collecting in Quintana Roo, Dickcissels appeared for the first time 5 April.

*Spiza americana* has been collected on Ruatan Island (specimens in British Museum) and is also listed by Sclater (P. Z. S., 1870, p. 836) in a nominal list of species collected by George M. Whitley "on the coast of Honduras" (*i.e.*, the Chamelicon valley between Puerto Cabello and San Pedro).

## PASSERINA CYANEA (Linn.)

*Tanagra cyanea* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 315 (Carolina).

An Indigo Bunting was seen at Lancetilla 19 February and again the following day, when I shot it. The bird was a male of the previous year, molting into the first nuptial plumage. The species was not met with again until the last week in March, when several individuals were seen following an influx of North American migrants.



## PASSERINA CIRIS (Linn.)

*Emberiza ciris* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, **1**, 1858, p. 179 (America, restricted type locality, Carolina, ex Catesby).

Two male Nonpareils were seen almost daily after the first of March on a weed-covered slope below the house that Bangs and I occupied; the birds were associated with *Sporophilas* and *Volatinia*, but were much more wary than either. One was finally shot 30 March; the testes were slightly enlarged.

## COEREBIDAE

## CYANERPES CYANEUS CYANEUS (Linn.)

*Certhia cyanea* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, **1**, 1766, p. 188 (Brazil and Cayenne = Surinam ex Edwards, "Gleanings," p. 114, pl. 264, f. 1).

I found the Blue Honey Creeper only at Tela, where three adult males were collected and others seen on a certain small wild fig tree between 24 and 28 March. That this species is common and widespread is well attested by its abundance in collections, but it appears to be restricted in its food habits, and, therefore, may be absent from certain localities, when the feeding trees of the region are not in fruit.

If *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes* Oberh. (Auk, **16**, 1899, p. 33) is a valid race, then the Central American Blue Honey Creepers must be referred to it, but since it was described no authors have been able to substantiate the alleged characters upon which it was based.

## CHLOROPHANES SPIZA GUATEMALENSIS Scl.

*Chlorophanes guatemalensis* P. L. Sclater, P. Z. S., 1861, p. 129 (Guatemala).

On 17 January I collected a female Green Honey Creeper in a forest at 1,200 feet altitude east of Lancetilla; the species was not seen again until 20 March when Bangs shot a pair at exactly the same spot.

## THRAUPIDAE

## TANAGRA HIRUNDINACEA (Bonap.)

*Euphonia hirundinacea* Bonaparte, P. Z. S., 1837, p. 117 (Guatemala).

A male was taken at Progreso 30 January and a mated pair at Tela 7 March; no other examples were positively identified; the bird does not appear to be at all common in the region about Tela. The specimen shot at Progreso was in a narrow strip of woodland separating a banana plantation from a pasture; the birds taken at Tela were at the edge of scrubby jungle bordering a road.



## TANAGRA GOULDI GOULDI (Scl.)

*Euphonia gouldi* P. L. Sclater, P. Z. S., 1857, p. 66, pl. 124 (Guatemala).

Six specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla 14 January to 6 February.

Gould's *Euphonia* is a common species of general distribution, seemingly more numerous in the valley, where it frequents low jungle, but it also occurs in the forest on the hillsides, where one was taken at 500 feet and another at 1,200 feet.

Until specimens were taken on the Caribbean slope of northwestern Panama by Kennard and Smith in 1926 and by Benson and Wedel subsequently, *T. gouldi* was known to range southward only to southeastern Costa Rica, and no attempt had been made to subdivide the species. With a series of seventy-eight specimens from all parts of the known range of the species from Vera Cruz southward, it is clear that there is a recognizable race inhabiting the southern part of the range of the species that I name.

## TANAGRA GOULDI PRAETERMISSA subsp. nov.

*Type*.—No. 234428 M. C. Z., from Western River, Almirante, Panama, collected 28 February 1926 by J. D. Smith.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Tanagra gouldi gouldi* Sclater but much smaller, the male with the chestnut abdominal area averaging less extensive.

*Range*.—Eastern Costa Rica from Port Limon to the eastern end of the Chiriqui lagoon in northwestern Panama.

*Material examined**T. g. gouldi*

Vera Cruz	1 ♂	Wing 58
British Honduras	2 ♂	58-59.5 (58.75)
Guatemala	17 ♂	55-60 (58.3)
Honduras		
(Caribbean lowlands)	5 ♂	57-60 (58.3)
Average	25 ♂	57.4
Vera Cruz	1 ♀	59
Quintana Roo	1 ♀	54
British Honduras	2 ♀	57-57.5 (57.25)
Guatemala	11 ♀	53-57.5 (55.4)
Honduras		
(Caribbean lowlands)	7 ♀	55-57 (56.1)
Northwestern Costa Rica	1 ♀	55
Average	23 ♀	55.8



*T. g. praetermissa*

Eastern Costa Rica	3 ♂	52-53.5 (52.75)
Northwestern Panama		
(Caribbean slope)	11 ♂	53-56 (54.1)
Average	14 ♂	53.8
Eastern Costa Rica	2 ♀	51-52 (51.5)
Northwestern Panama	5 ♀	49-53 (51.5)
Average	7 ♀	51.5

## TANGARA LARVATA LARVATA (DuBus)

*Calliste larvata* DuBus, Esquiss. orn., 1845, pl. 9 (Tabasco, s. e. Mexico).

Three males and a female were collected at Lancetilla 14 January to 2 March, and a female at Tela 28 March. The latter bird was breeding, and her complement of eggs was doubtless complete since she had a developed incubation patch, and the ovaries and oviduct were returning to normal size. This Tanager is a rather common species inhabiting low jungle and second growth, but was not found in the heavy forest.

## THRAUPIS CANA DIACONUS (Less.)

*Tanagra (Aglaia) diaconus* Lesson, Rev. zoöl., 1842, p. 175 (Realejo, Nicaragua).

Five examples, two males and three females, of the Blue Tanager were taken, all at Tela, between 21 February and 28 March.

This is a not uncommon bird in the region about Tela, frequenting especially the vicinity of towns, roadsides and pastures, particularly where there are scattered palm trees. Together with other species, this Tanager was found to frequent the wild fig when in fruit.

## THRAUPIS ABBAS (Licht.)

*Tanagra abbas* Lichtenstein, Preiz.-Verz. Mex. vög., 1831, p. 2 (Mexico).

This species was first met with at Progreso 30 and 31 January, when two males and a female were taken at about the same spot, the borders of a bushy pasture. I did not see it again until 24 March when I found two in the possession of some boys at Tela, who had just shot them with an air rifle from a "feeding tree." I saved one of these birds, a male. When Bangs and I visited the tree two days later we collected two males and two females besides seeing others, and on 28 March the birds were still in evidence on the same tree. Except at these two stations near Progreso and Tela, this species was not found elsewhere in the region.



## RAMPHOCELUS PASSERINII Bonap.

*Ramphocelus passerinii* Bonaparte, Antologia, 1831, no. 130, p. 3 ("Mexico or Cuba." Guatemala substituted as type locality by Berlepsch. 1910).

Six males, four females, Lancetilla 15 January to 21 March.

The Scarlet-rumped Tanager is one of the most numerous as well as one of the most beautiful and conspicuous birds in the vicinity of Tela. It is primarily a bird of the moist lowland thickets, coming out into the open to feed, but quickly darting back again when disturbed. The scarlet rump and upper tail coverts of the male contrast sharply against the velvet black of the rest of the plumage and render the bird easily recognizable even at a considerable distance; the olive and buff females are less readily recognizable.

Specimens from the southern parts of the range of this species average very slightly smaller than those from the northern parts, but the amount is too slight to form the basis for a separation.

## PHLOGOTHRAUPIS SANGUINOLENTA SANGUINOLENTA (Less.)

*Tanagra (Tachyphonus) sanguinolentus* Lesson, Cent. zoöl., 1830, p. 107, pl. 39 (Mexico).

A single female of the Crimson-collared Tanager was taken at Progreso 30 January. None was secured in the Lancetilla valley, although on 26 March I shot at one while it was feeding with other birds on a small wild fig at Tela, and a day or two later saw another in abandoned banana lands near Lancetilla.

## PIRANGA RUBRA RUBRA Linn.

*Fringilla rubra* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 181 (Carolina).

The Summer Tanager is a rather common winter visitant in northern Honduras. Three adult males and one immature male were collected at Lancetilla 21 and 24 January, 20 and 26 February; an adult male at Progreso 31 January, and an immature male 5 km. west of Tela 21 February.

## HABIA RUBICA RUBICOIDES (Lafr.)

*Saltator rubicoides* Lafresnaye, Rev. zoöl., 1844, p. 41 (Mexico. I designate Vera Cruz as type locality).

Three males, four females, Lancetilla, 300 to 1,800 feet, 17 January to 29 March.



This species was found to be an inhabitant of the heavy rain forest where it is a common bird; a pair always seems to form the nucleus for the mixed forest flocks so characteristic of such situations during January and February. In fact, it is the scolding chatter of this Tanager that often first draws attention to the presence of an otherwise silent host of small birds.

A rather curious anomaly is noticed in an adult male in full red plumage collected 20 March; this specimen is in process of acquiring three new rectrices, and two new secondaries, both on the left side. All the new feathers are coming in olive as in the female, and naturally raises the question as to whether this species and perhaps others of the genus have not a complete seasonal change of plumage like some of the Pirangas. I, myself, have never seen a bird in the wholly green plumage of the female that was sexed by its collector as "♂," though I have seen a good many sexed as "♀" that looked as though "immature ♂" would have been more nearly correct. It is not unusual to find birds with the female type of plumage predominating, but with a few scattered red feathers, and these seem to be generally regarded as the immature male. I hope that these few remarks will result in ornithologists who visit Central and South America taking particular care in the correct sexing and "ageing" of such representatives of this genus as they may collect.

My birds from Lancetilla are without a doubt referable to *H. r. rubricoides* and not to *H. r. confinis* (*Phoenicothera rubica confinis* Bangs, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 18, 1905, p. 156) from Yaruca, Honduras. It is rather difficult to explain the occurrence of such a distinct form as *confinis* on the southern side of the coastal mountains of Honduras not much over fifty miles to the eastward of Tela. The males, it is true, are close to *rubicoides* and hard to tell from Vera Cruz examples collected in late May, but the females are very different, about intermediate between *rubicoides* and *vinacea*. At present there is a gap in the range of *Habia rubica* in Central America. It is apparently unrecorded from anywhere in the interior of Honduras and no further east than Yaruca. It is not known from Nicaragua. Northwestern Costa Rica is inhabited by *H. alfaroana* (Ridgw.), a bird usually regarded as a distinct species, but to my mind obviously a representative form of *rubica*. However, Carriker (Ann. Carn. mus., 6, 1910, p. 842) says that over a small part of its range it occurs together with "*P. rubica*" (= *H. r. vinacea*), so perhaps it is best to still regard it as a species, unless *r. vinacea* be elevated to specific rank. Then *alfaroana* would certainly be a race of *rubica*. *H. fuscicauda* (Cab.),



of the lowlands of eastern and southwestern Costa Rica and Panama south to Canal zone, I consider to be more nearly allied to *H. salvini* than to *rubica*.

#### HABIA SALVINI DISCOLOR (Ridgw.)

*Phoenicothera salvini discolor* Ridgway, Proc. Wash. acad. sci., **3**, 1901, p. 150 (Rio Escondido, Nicaragua).

Five males, two females, Lancetilla 21 January to 20 March.

The two species of *Habia* here listed, while similar in habits, notes, and general appearance in the field, nevertheless, frequent quite different situations. The species here in question probably occupies the same niche in the low moist jungle and second growth in the valleys that *rubicoides* does in the heavy forest, though as a rule it is not found in mixed flocks with other species, partly no doubt because such flocks are not as characteristic of the jungle.

Just how to place these examples, as well as the series collected by Brown at Ceiba and Yaruca in 1902, is a puzzling one. They are certainly not *salvini salvini*, to which form Honduranian birds have hitherto been referred, but on the whole are best placed with *discolor*, a form of which I have not examined an adequate series.

### ICTERIDAE

#### GYMNOSTINOPS MONTEZUMA (Less.)

*Cacicus montezuma* Lesson, Cent. zoöl., 1830, p. 33 pl. 7 (Mexico).

The Montezuma Oropendula is a common bird in the entire region about Tela; it is certainly by far the most striking and conspicuous. About Lancetilla these birds were constantly in evidence everywhere in the valley, often resorting to the abandoned banana plantings to feed on ripened fruit.

At the time of my arrival, the middle of January, there was a very marked morning flight into the valley, the birds appearing from the northward about six in the morning and returning again about four in the afternoon. This for a time led me to believe that there was no breeding colony in the valley. However, Bangs found an active colony about half a mile from the experiment station on 24 February.

#### AMBLYCERCUS HOLOSERICEUS HOLOSERICEUS (Licht.)

*Sturnus holosericeus* Lichtenstein, Preis.-Verz. Mex. vög., 1830, p. 1 (Mexico).

A male 8 February, a female 23 March, both at Lancetilla. This species was found in the Tela region only in the Lancetilla valley,



where it proved to be a retiring if not an uncommon bird. It was seen on only six or eight occasions, in each case frequenting dense tangles along the river or in the abandoned banana plantations.

In another paper (Proc. Boston soc. nat. hist., **38**, no. 10, 1928, p. 464) Mr. Kennard and I stated that we were unable to recognize Todd's *centralis* (Proc. biol. soc. Wash., **29**, 1916, p. 95, Rio Sicsola, Costa Rica) but did not go into details. The sole character on which the form was based was that in *centralis* the wing was slightly longer than the tail, while in typical *holosericeus* the reverse was believed to be the case. Unfortunately, Todd did not give the number of specimens examined. I have carefully measured a series of eighty-seven birds, covering the region from southern Mexico to Darien (except Nicaragua), and tabulated the results as follows:

	Wing < tail			wing = tail			Wing > tail		
	♂	♀	sex?	♂	♀	sex?	♂	♀	sex?
Vera Cruz	5	4							
Yucatan	1		1						
Quintana Roo	2	1							
British Honduras	1	1							
Guatemala		1							
Honduras	1	1							
Western and southwest Costa Rica	7	2		3			3	2	
Northwest Panama (Pacific slope)	3	3							
Southeast Costa Rica	2						2		
Northwest Panama (Caribbean slope)	2			1	1		1	2	2
Canal zone	13	3		4				1	
Darien							3	1	
Totals	37	16	1	8	1		9	6	2

A glance at the table shows that all the birds from Honduras northward do have the wing shorter than the tail as claimed by Todd, but that from Costa Rica southward to the Canal Zone the majority have the same character, when one would expect the reverse, and that it is not until reaching Darien that all have the wing exceeding the tail. Even in this case I feel that the material from there is too scant to form the basis for a definite statement.

It is also of interest to note that the five specimens from the Santa Marta region, recorded by Todd (Ann. Carn. mus., **16**, 1922, p. 478-479) as *Amblycercus holosericeus* subspecies, have the wing *shorter* than



the tail, and were not named because of "inability to find characters to distinguish them from true *holosericeus*."

I follow Chapman (Bull. A. M. N. H., 55, 1926, p. 695-696) in regarding both *flavirostris* and *australis* as subspecies of *holosericeus*.

#### PSOMOCOLAX ORYZIVORUS IMPACIFUS Peters

*Psomocolax oryzivorus impacifus* Peters, Proc. biol. soc. Wash., 42, 1929, p. 123 (Pasa Nueva, Vera Cruz, Mexico).

*Corvus mexicanus* Less., Traité d'orn., 1831, p. 433 (nec *Corvus mexicanus* Gmel.).

A male, two females, Tela, 5 to 8 March.

Bangs and I first found Giant Cowbirds in association with Boat-tailed Grackles on the dump just west of Tela, where the specimens listed were taken. After that I saw single individuals in flight up or down the Lancetilla valley, and on 31 March saw several about the Oropendola nesting tree.

#### ICTERUS SPURIUS (Linn.)

*Oriolus spurius* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 12, 1, 1866, p. 162 (Carolina).

Several specimens shot, only two preserved: a male, Progreso 30 January, a female, Lancetilla 20 February. Orchard Orioles are extremely abundant winter visitors to the northern coast of Honduras. As a rule they occur in large flocks, in which females and immature males predominate, though on one occasion I saw nearly twenty adult males together in bushes bordering the Toloa canal. The birds occurred most numerous in the long rows of "madre de cacao" planted as live fence posts. I was surprised to find them feeding in the crowns of a species of giant forest tree during the brief period in February that these trees bore a profusion of small yellow flowers.

At the Toloa canal, between the tenth and twelfth of March, Orchard Orioles banded together in very large flocks, performing short aerial evolutions, apparently preparing to migrate northward.

#### ICTERUS GALBULA (Linn.)

*Coracias galbula* Linné, Syst. nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 108 ("America" = Virginia and Maryland ex Catesby).

The Baltimore Oriole is an uncommon winter visitor in the Tela region; no specimens were secured, though the bird was seen several times during March.



## ICTERUS MESOMELAS MESOMELAS (Wagl.)

*Psarocolius mesomelas* Wagler, Isis, 1829, p. 755 (Mexico).

A male and a female were taken at Lancetilla 8 February and another pair 52 km. west of Tela 10 March. This Oriole was found most numerous in the great Toloa swamp district west of Tela, where it occurred chiefly on flowering shrubs, particularly a large pink mallow.

*Icterus mesomelas* is not recorded from Honduras east of Omoa; its southern subspecies, *salvini*, is the bird found as far north as the Escondido River in Nicaragua. The birds from the region about Tela, while showing a slight approach to *salvini* in the reduction of the white or yellowish outer edge of the inner secondaries, nevertheless are definitely referable to the typical race with which they agree in smaller size.

## ICTERUS PROTHEMELAS (Strickl.)

*Xanthomus prothemelas* Strickland in: — Jardine's Contr. orn., 1850, p. 120, pl. 62 (Guatemala).

Eight specimens, both sexes, Lancetilla and Tela, 14 January to 6 March.

Lesson's Oriole is a common resident in the Tela region, frequenting the more open situations, particularly pastures with scattered palms.

Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, pt. 2, 1902, p. 270, note) states that specimens of this bird from Honduras and Nicaragua have the black portion of the underparts more extended posteriorly, and Carriker mentions (Ann. Carn. mus., 6, 1910, p. 830) a tendency towards the same feature in connection with birds from Panama and Costa Rica, but remarks that it is not constant. For me to confirm this character would require a better balanced series in comparable plumages from all parts of the bird's range than is at present available.

## DIVES DIVES (Licht.)

*Icterus dives* Lichtenstein, Preiz.-Verz. Mex. vög., 1830, p. 1 (Mexico).

This Icterid was met with from time to time in the Lancetilla valley, not regularly but straggling in occasionally. It was first noted 2 February, when I shot a female from a cocoanut palm growing at the edge of a banana plantation near the Lancetilla office; three days later two males were collected near the same spot, and three other individuals seen; a fourth example was secured by Bangs 2 March. After the mid-



dle of March two birds, presumably a pair, were seen on several occasions in a small *potrero* at Lancetilla.

The only previous record for Dives in Honduras is that of a specimen collected at Guaruma by Erich Wittkugel and recorded by Ridgway (Proc. U. S. nat. mus., **14**, 1891, p. 470). I have not been able to locate this locality on any map, but judging from the context of Ridgway's article, it would appear to be somewhere in western Honduras, probably the Chamelicon valley.

#### CASSIDIX MEXICANUS MEXICANUS (Gmel.)

*Corvus mexicanus* Gmelin, Syst. nat., 1788, p. 375 (Mexico, *ex* Hernandez).

*Quiscalus macrourus* Swainson, Anim. in Menag., 1838, p. 299 (Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico).

Great-tailed Grackles were found entirely, or almost entirely, in the immediate vicinity of the seashore. On 16 January an adult male was seen near the office at Lancetilla and was collected, but no others appeared there subsequently. They were very numerous along the waterfront at Tela and about the grounds and buildings of the fruit company, less abundant about the outskirts of the town. When away from buildings they are shy and difficult of approach, but on the fruit company grounds they are very tame. On one occasion I observed an adult male bathing under the spray of a lawn sprinkler and drinking from a pool of water on the concrete porch of the main office building. In addition to the bird shot at Lancetilla, three males and three females were collected at Tela between 29 February and 8 March. They are exactly like specimens from the coast of Texas.

#### PSILORHINUS MEXICANUS CYANOGENYS Sharpe

*Psilorhinus cyanogenys* Sharpe, Cat. birds Brit. mus., **3**, 1877, p. 140, pl. 9 ("Pearl Bay lagoon, Mosquito" = Pearl Cay lagoon, eastern Nicaragua).

The Central American Brown Jay is not uncommon in the region about Tela, but on the whole is more numerous in the drier scrubby portions of the Ulua valley, where I found it common at Progreso 30 January to 1 February, and 52 km. west of Tela 9-12 March. It is a bird of the second growth or where patches of low forest alternate with pastures or open lands; situations that are also the favorite haunts of the chachalaca.





Peters, James Lee. 1929. "An ornithological survey in the Caribbean lowlands of Honduras." *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College* 69, 397–478.

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