

The Auk' for 1904 (XXI, p. 408) reference was made to an expedition, sent out early in 1904 by the Hon. John E. Thayer for the purpose of exploring some of the little known islands and other parts of Panama and northern South America, he employing therefor the well-known zoölogical collector, Mr. Wilmot W. Brown, Jr. In the present paper<sup>1</sup> we have the first of a series of papers giving the scientific results of the expedition of 1904. Gorgona Island—a heavily wooded, uninhabited islet, five miles long by half a mile wide, situated about twenty miles off Punta las Reyes, Colombia—proved somewhat disappointing, its fauna being poor in both birds and mammals. The rainy season is perennial, and the vegetation so extremely dense as to be almost impenetrable. The island is of volcanic origin, and forms three peaks, the highest and central one having an altitude of about 800 feet. Mr. Brown found birds so scarce that often the result of a whole day's shooting would not exceed ten specimens, and the dampness was so great that artificial heat was necessary to dry the specimens of both birds and mammals to secure their preservation. Mr. Brown remained on the island about two weeks—June 19 to July 2, 1904.

The present paper includes reports on the mammals (by Mr. Bangs—5 species, two of them new), the birds (by Thayer and Bangs), and the reptiles and amphibians (by Thomas Barbour—13 species, four new). Fifteen species of birds were obtained most of them in small series, of which five are characterized as new, namely, *Sula etesiaca* (somewhat intermediate between *S. brewsteri* and *S. leucogastra*), *Urubitinga subtilis*, *Thamnophilus gorgonæ* (near *T. nævius* and *T. ambiguus*), *Cyanerpes gigas*, and *Cæreba gorgonæ*, the two latter apparently very distinct from their nearest allies.—J. A. A.

**Nelson on the Names of Certain North American Birds, etc.**—Mr. Nelson has recently described a new Whip-poor-will from Mexico (*Antrostomus notabilis*), based on specimens in the Sunnett collections in the American Museum of Natural History, from Victoria, Tamaulipas,<sup>2</sup> and has revised the names of several North American birds.<sup>3</sup> The Booby, commonly known as *Sula sula*, is shown to be not the *Pelecanus sula* Linn. (1766), but should be called *Sula leucogastra* Boddaert (1783).

<sup>1</sup> The Vertebrata of Gorgona Island, Colombia. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoölogy, Vol. XLVI, No. 5, pp. 87–102, June, 1905. Aves. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs, pp. 91–98. (Papers from the John E. Thayer Expedition of 1904, No. 1.)

<sup>2</sup> Description of a New Species of Whip-poor-will from Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XVIII, pp. 111, 112, March 31, 1905.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on the Names of certain North American Birds. *Ibid.*, pp. 121–126, April 28, 1905.



For the *Accipiter velox rufilatus* Ridgway (1888) an older name is found in *Nisus pacificus* Lesson (1845), based on specimens from the western coast of Mexico and California. As the western Sharp-shinned Hawk occurs at Acapulco "only as a winter visitor," Mr. Nelson decides that for this reason the California bird "may be taken as typical of this form." Possibly a recognizable Northwest Coast form of the Sharp-shinned Hawk may yet be found, with a limited and fairly well defined breeding range, but until this has been made out neither of these names — *pacificus* from California and *rufilatus*, based on Fort Bridger specimens — need to give the layman any anxiety. In all probability neither will be available for the hypothetical new form, being apparently pure synonyms of *velox*, which seems to range across the continent without any satisfactorily recognizable western form, Rocky Mountain, Great Basin, and most California specimens, when comparable as to season and age, being not appreciably different from the eastern bird.

The common Turkey Buzzard of North America is shown to be separable from the Turkey Buzzard of Mexico, the West Indies and tropical America generally, through its much larger size and slight color difference. These were noticed by Wied in 1839, and for this reason he proposed the name *septentrionalis* for the North American bird (type locality, New Harmony, Indiana), thus restricting the name *aura* Linn. to the smaller southern form. The North American Turkey Buzzard, as Mr. Nelson shows, must stand as *Cathartes aura septentrionalis* (Wied). The same point is made, apparently independently and almost simultaneously, by Mr. Bangs in his 'Birds of the Isle of Pines' (Amer. Nat., April, 1905, p. 190, published April 26).

Mr. Nelson further shows that the Red-eyed Cowbird was first described by Lesson in 1839 as *Tangavius involucratus*, which name must replace the now current but much later *Callothrux robustus*. According to Mr. Nelson the three Mexican forms of *Tangavius* are merely subspecies and not species, so that the full name of our bird becomes *Tangavius æneus involucratus* (Lesson). — J. A. A.

**Schiøler on the Greenland Mallard.**<sup>1</sup> — On the basis of a comparison of a large series of specimens of the Mallard from Greenland with specimens from Denmark Mr. Schiøler has separated the Greenland form as a subspecies under the name *Anas boschas spilogaster*. The Greenland form differs from true *boschas* in being larger, with a somewhat shorter bill, darker upperparts and much more heavily spotted underparts. A large number of specimens are described in detail (including tables of measurements), and three plates, from photographs, very clearly illustrate the color differences claimed. — J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Om dem grønlandske Stokand, *Anas boschas spilogaster*. Af E. Lehn Schiøler. Viedensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn., 1905, pp. 129-148, pll. ii-iv.



Nelson, Edward William and Nelson, Edward William. 1905. "Nelson on the Names of Certain North American Birds, Etc." *The Auk* 22, 330–331.

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