

XXIV.—*Notes on Birds from the Province of Saõ Paulo, Brazil.* By J. F. HAMILTON.

HAVING spent part of the spring of 1869 in the south of Brazil, and made a small collection of birds from that locality, I think that some notes which I took may not prove uninteresting to the readers of 'The Ibis.'

It may be well in the first place to give some idea of the character of the country. From Santos, the port where I landed, a level space of marshy ground, covered by trees, extends for a distance of about eight miles from the sea. At the end of this the mountain-range or Serra do Mar ascends rather steeply to a height of about 2500 feet, which is the elevation of the greater part of the Province of Saõ Paulo. The Serra is covered by a dense forest, which extends for a distance of about twenty miles from the top; beyond this, for at least forty miles, the country is of a very open character, alternating between undulating campos and small patches of forest; further westward it is more mountainous, and the woods which clothe the Serra extend further from the top. About 100 miles west of Saõ Paulo is the town of Itapetininga; the distance between it and the woods of the Serra is about thirty miles, the country being very open and rather hilly. There is a good deal of partially cleared land at the edge of the forest, bordering on the campos, and also some extent of marshy ground; here the greater part of my collection was formed; a few birds were also procured near Saõ Paulo. The birds mentioned in the following notes, with the exception

of *Colaptes campestris*, of which I did not preserve a specimen, have been identified by Mr. Salvin, to whom my best thanks are due.

1. *TURDUS LEUCOMELAS*, Vieill.

Common about the open campos round Saõ Paulo, especially where there are a few clumps of bushes. I noticed it several times feeding on marshy ground.

2. *PARULA PITIAYUMI* (Vieill.).

Found at the tops of trees about twenty feet high in the neighbourhood of Saõ Paulo.

3. *BASILEUTERUS VERMIVORUS* (Vieill.).

Tolerably common, and not at all shy; they will follow any one along a path for a considerable distance, hopping from log to log, and never remaining more than a few seconds in the same place. They do not seem at all to frequent the depths of the forests, but affect the edges of clearings, creeping about among the stems of the fallen trees. I never saw one perched on a tree at any height from the ground.

4. *VIREOSYLVIA AGILIS* (Licht.).

Tolerably common in the gardens of Saõ Paulo.

5. *CERTHIOLA CHLOROPYGA*, Cab.

Observed in the Botanical Gardens at Saõ Paulo, creeping about at the tree-tops, and peering into the crevices in the bark and at the bases of leaves.

6. *EUPHONIA VIOLACEA* (L.).

Two specimens were shot off some low bushes standing in an open space of ground.

7. *EUPHONIA PECTORALIS* (Lath.).

This species I noticed in bushes, about five or ten feet from the ground.

8. *CALLISTE FESTIVA* (Shaw).

I met with this species at the top of the Serra south of Saõ Paulo along the line of railroad, and also south of Itapetininga. They were in small flocks at a height of from five to ten feet

from the ground, in thick tangled bushes, and were not at all shy, allowing me to procure several specimens out of one flock.

9. *TANAGRA CYANOPTERA*, Vieill.

Found at the tops of tall trees; also common to the south of Saõ Paulo.

10. *TANAGRA ORNATA*, Sparrm.

Frequents orange-orchards.

11. *TACHYPHONUS CORONATUS* (Vieill.).

This bird frequents the thick undergrowth, hopping about among fallen trunks of trees. I have seen them, in company with other small birds, following migratory bands of Ants.

12. *SPERMOPHILA CÆRULESCENS* (Vieill.).

I procured one specimen from a small flock in the neighbourhood of Saõ Paulo.

13. *ZONOTRICHIA FILEATA* (Bodd.).

Common in some of the gardens round Saõ Paulo, and also met with about farm-buildings generally throughout the province.

14. *PSEUDOLEISTES VIRIDIS* (Gm.).

I found this bird common on the open campos a short distance from Itapetininga. They associate in small flocks of about twenty, settling on the ground together and walking about in search of food. I found them often perched upon low bushes about a foot from the ground. They seem generally to prefer being in the neighbourhood of some clump of trees, to which they fly when alarmed, clustering thickly together.

15. *APHOBUS CHOPÍ*, Vieill.

I only met with this species in the evening, just before sunset, when a flock usually came and settled on the orange-trees surrounding the house where I was staying; and after remaining there a few minutes, during which time many of them sang very sweetly, they proceeded towards their roosting-place, stopping here and there to rest on any exposed tree, which they often fairly blackened by their numbers.

16. *CYANOCORAX AZUREUS*, Temm.

Found generally at the outskirts of the forests bordering on the open campos. They seem particularly fond of perching on the naked limbs of the Pifion tree, which grows to an immense height, with only a few branches just at the top. In such situations they are frequently to be found towards sunset in company with the Toucan, the harsh notes of the two combined producing a most discordant sound.

17. *LEPTOXYURA CINNAMOMEA* (Gm.).

Shot off a Cactus plant growing on the edge of a ditch near São Paulo. There were about a dozen together.

18. *XIPHOCOLAPTES ALBICOLLIS* (Vieill.).

Not very common. One that I shot was creeping up the base of a large tree about a foot from the bottom; it had previously been climbing about amongst some fallen logs.

19. *THAMNOPHILUS GUTTATUS*, Vieill.

Not at all common. The few that I saw were generally at a height of from fifteen to twenty feet from the ground, and they do not seem at all to frequent the thick undergrowth. One that was shot remained clinging to the tree by one foot after it was dead, and had to be shaken down.

20. *CNIPOLEGUS CYANEIROSTRIS* (Vieill.).

I only saw one, which was creeping about among the lower branches of a tree overhanging some water.

21. *COPURUS COLONUS*, Vieill.

Of frequent occurrence. One might generally be seen on the topmost naked branch of any tree that stood in tolerably open ground, from which it would dart upon any passing insect, returning to its post in true Flycatcher-fashion.

22. *ORCHILUS AURICULARIS* (Vieill.).

Occasionally seen hopping about in very thick shrubs.

23. *PITANGUS SULPHURATUS* (L.).

These birds may be seen in almost every open space of ground where there are a few clumps of low trees, especially in the neighbourhood of water or any marshy ground. They are

generally to be found perched upon the top of a low bush, from which they pounce down upon any insect they may see on the ground. I found them very troublesome when trying to shoot birds that frequented marshy ground, as some were generally perched upon a low bush at the edge of the marsh, and on my approach they set up their loud cry, which had the effect of frightening away all birds that were in the neighbourhood. When passing from one bush to another they fly in a very undulating manner. Their cry very much resembles the words *bem-te-vi* (I see you well), by which name they are known to the Brazilians.

24. *CHIROXIPHIA CAUDATA* (Shaw).

Tolerably common and well distributed over the country. I saw it both near Itapetininga, and in the woods of the Serra south of São Paulo. The natives call them Fandangos, and say that they are in the habit of performing a dance: one perches upon a branch, and the others arrange themselves in a circle round it, dancing up and down on their perches to the music sung by the centre one. A female I preserved has the same plumage as the young male—red on the head, with the back greenish blue. Von Pelzeln (*Orn. Bras.* p. 129, note) remarks the same of an old female collected by Natterer in the same neighbourhood as mine, two months later in the year.

25. *CHIROMACHÆRIS GUTTUROSA* (Desm.).

The first intimation given of the presence of one of these birds is a sharp whirring sound very like that of a child's small wooden rattle, followed by two or three sharp snaps; the bird itself may then be seen creeping among the branches, stretching out its neck to seize some insect, and ever and anon darting off in pursuit of some passing fly. They do not, however, return to the same post like Flycatchers, but after a successful pursuit, perch upon the nearest branch and resume their search over the tree. They are generally to be found on trees of thick growth, as they do not seem ever to take long flights.

26. *ILICURA MILITARIS* (Shaw).

This bird is rather rarer than the last, and has very much the same habits. I found both forming a part of the large flocks

of birds of almost every description that at certain periods of the year traverse the forests, passing over the same ground day after day at almost precisely the same hour.

27. *AMPELIO CUCULLATA* (Sw.).

The hollow and rather mournful note of this bird is frequently the only sound that one hears in passing through the depth of the forest, especially at midday, when almost every creature is silent. The bird itself, however, is not very easily noticed, as it remains almost motionless on its perch. I have found them both high up in trees and amongst thick tangled bushes; they are remarkably tame, allowing any one to approach within a few feet without moving.

28. *CHASMORHYNCHUS NUDICOLLIS* (Vieill.).

There is certainly very little resemblance in the note of this bird to the sound of a church-bell; it is far more like the ringing sound produced by a blacksmith striking his forge; indeed in some parts of the province of Saõ Paulo it is called "ferreiro"*.

I did not find it common anywhere, and never saw two together.

29. *PYRODERUS SCUTATUS* (Shaw).

Common in the thick woods. I found them to be generally solitary except when feeding, when they were sometimes met with in company with the Bell-bird and Toucan in flocks of about half a dozen. At these times they were generally at the tops of the trees; when by themselves, I generally found them about half-way up. Often when walking through the woods I have been startled by one of them flying out just in front of me, crossing the path and remaining at a distance of about twenty feet in the wood on the other side, where it would stop looking at me with stupid curiosity. When feeding, I never heard it utter any cry; but at other times its note is very much like the sound produced by a person breathing loudly.

30. *CERYLE AMERICANA* (Gm.).

Found several times round shallow pools, especially when the banks were well wooded. I saw them several times perched on logs projecting a few feet out of the water.

* [Cf. *Ibis* 1865, p. 93.—Ed.]

31. *TROGON ATRICOLLIS*, Vieill.

Distributed pretty generally throughout the forests, but not abundant in any one locality. It seems to be of rather solitary habits, as I never saw two together.

32. *THALURANIA GLAUCOPIS* (Gm.).

By far the commonest Humming-bird in the district. They seem rather fond of water, being most numerous in the vicinity of a stream. I watched one for some time bathing; it was perched on a small twig overhanging a brook, and every now and then darted down to the surface of the water, hovering over it and, whilst still on the wing, splashing about; and after a few seconds it would return to its perch and preen its feathers. After bathing several times, it darted suddenly away.

33. *POLEMISTRIA CHALYBEA* (Vieill.).

Only two specimens obtained.

34. *CLYTOLEMA RUBINEA* (Gm.).

The note of this species is more prolonged than that of either of the two preceding birds, and is considerably shriller.

35. *CROTOPHAGA ANI*, L.

Very common. There is scarcely an open piece of ground where there are a few bushes that has not its flock of these birds. They are especially fond of marshy ground, and may often be seen running about amongst a herd of cattle picking up the insects disturbed by the animals. They seem to be very regardless of danger, and will scarcely do more than flit from one bush to another, even when the numbers of the flock are greatly thinned; when hidden in long grass they will allow themselves to be almost trodden upon before rising. The Brazilians seldom molest them, as their flesh is not good to eat.

36. *PIAYA CAYANA*, L.

I saw these birds pretty often, but always singly. They are by no means of active habits, but remain for some time on the same perch, often hiding themselves very closely; their long tails, however, which they are constantly spreading, generally betray their presence. I found a berry in the throat of one which I shot.

37. *RAMPHASTOS DICOLORUS*, L.

Common. Flocks were frequently met with both at the outskirts and in the depths of the forests. I noticed that a flock generally roosted in the same place, invariably proceeding to its feeding-ground early in the morning by one route, and returning in the evening by another, not making any long flights, but resting frequently on the trees in their way: at such times they were far less wary than when feeding. When flying they keep the head and neck well stretched out; and I sometimes fancied that, if they flapped their wings rather faster, they would look at some distance like Wild Ducks.

38. *PTEROGLOSSUS WIEDI*, Sturm.

Not so common as the last, and, I think, keeping more to the thick forests.

39. *CAMPEPHILUS ROBUSTUS* (Licht.).

This bird at once attracts attention both by its loud tapping and harsh note, which very much resembles the scream of a child. I only met with it in the thickest parts of the forest; and it does not seem, like most birds, to rest in the heat of the day.

40. *COLAPTES CAMPESTRIS* (Licht.).

This is essentially a bird of the open campos: I never saw them where the country was at all well wooded. They may frequently be seen perched on the numerous ant-hills which cover the Campos, flying off on the approach of a traveller with a loud scream and gliding flight, and perching upon another ant-hill or on some tree*.

41. *CONURUS VITTATUS*, Shaw.

Very common. I met them frequently in the neighbourhood of maize-plantations, on which they commit great havoc. Along the São-Paulo railroad flocks were frequently seen flying overhead.

42. *BROTOGERYS TIRIACULA* (Bodd.).

I only saw one small flock of these birds.

[* Cf. P. Z. S. 1870, pp. 158, 705.—Ed.]

43. *TRICLARIA CYANOASTRA* (Vieill.).

My attention was first drawn to this bird by hearing a rather agreeable song proceeding from the top of a tall tree : on looking up I could see nothing but a good-sized green bird, and was surprised to find on shooting, that it was a Parrot. At first I thought there must be some mistake, and that I had shot the wrong bird ; but the natives assured me that this kind of Parrot sings ; indeed they call it " *Sabia sicca*," *Sabia* being the name they give to the Thrush.

44. *CHAMÆPELIA TALPACOTI*, Sw.

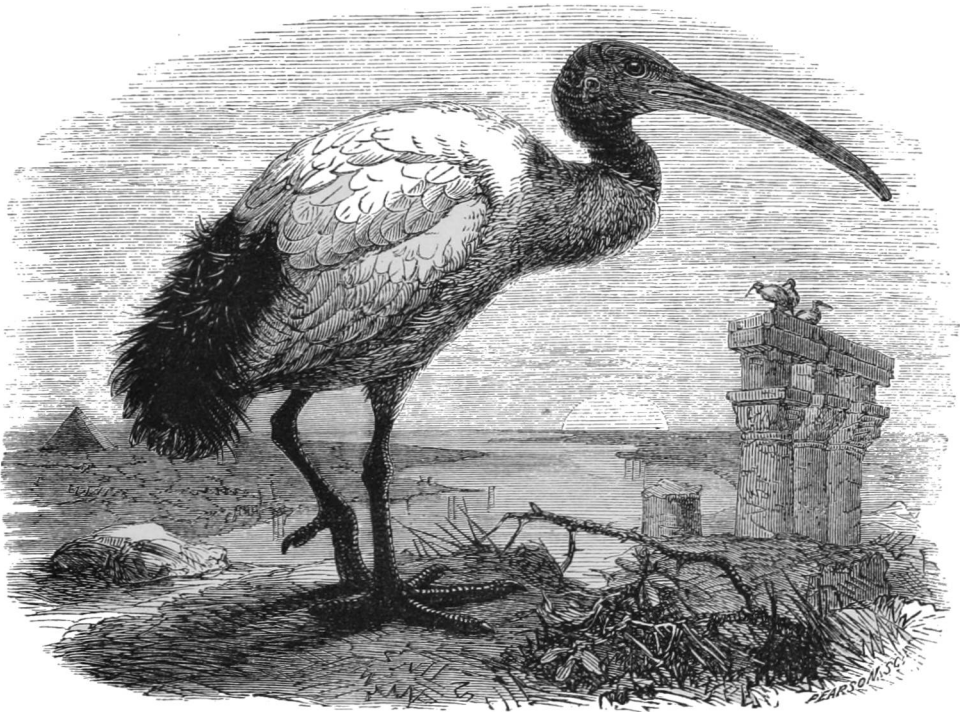
I only noticed these birds round one or two farms, where they associated in small flocks, feeding on the ground in company with various kinds of small birds, and were remarkably shy : on the approach of any one they were invariably the first to take the alarm and fly away. I saw them occasionally perched upon the roofs of outhouses.

45. *ARAMIDES SARACURA* (Spix).

Almost every marsh and small piece of water has two or three of these birds constantly round it. They are very shy, retreating noiselessly to the nearest shelter on the approach of any one. Towards evening numbers of them congregate and utter their loud call-note, which very much resembles the word " *saracura* " rapidly repeated.

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