

- † **Muscicapidae.** Family added to include only the genus *Polioptila* Sclater. (Cf. Chubb, 'Birds Brit. Guiana,' II, 1921, p. 351.)

#### REJECTIONS AND ELIMINATIONS.<sup>1</sup>

- † **Oceanodroma hornbyi** (Gray). Eliminated as probably not taken in North America. (Cf. Murphy, 'The Auk,' XXXIX, No. 1, January (February 11), 1922, p. 65.)
- Dendrocygna bicolor helva** Wetmore and Peters, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXXV, March 20, 1922, p. 42; "Unlucky Lake, San Diego County, California." Rejected as not separable from *Dendrocygna bicolor bicolor*. (Cf. Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, I, December, 1922, p. 129.)
- \* **Hierofalco rusticolus obsoletus** (Gmelin). Eliminated because considered a color phase of *Hierofalco rusticolus candicans* (Gmelin). (Cf. Swann, 'Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club,' XLII, No. CCLXV, February 2, 1922, p. 66.)
- \* **Vireo huttoni obscurus** Anthony. Eliminated as not separable from **Vireo huttoni huttoni**. (Cf. Grinnell, Condor, XXIV, No. 1, January 25, 1922, p. 32; Oberholser, 'The Auk,' XXXIX, No. 1, January (February 11), 1922, p. 77.)

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### IN MEMORIAM: JOSÉ CASTULO ZELEDÓN.

(BORN MARCH 24, 1846—DIED JULY 16, 1923.)<sup>2</sup>

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

#### Plate XXXVIII.

ON July 16, 1923, there passed from this life in Turin, Italy, a man who will be sadly missed by his relations, his friends, and his country.

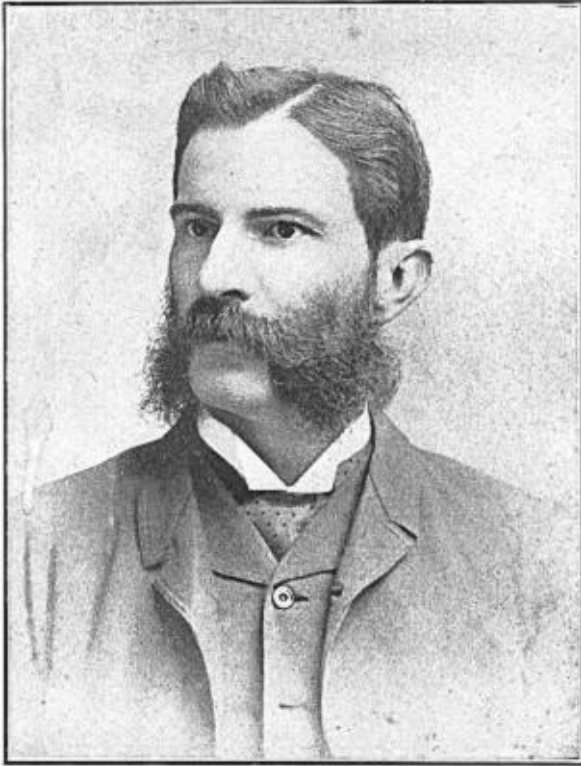
Don José Castulo Zeledón, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union,<sup>3</sup> was born in Las Anonas, near San José, Costa Rica, March 24, 1846. He was a scion of a distinguished family, in whom intellectual gifts, learning, and

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<sup>1</sup> Eliminations from the A. O. U. Check-List, the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Supplements, and the First to Seventh Annual Lists, are designated by an asterisk (\*).

<sup>2</sup> For some of the data in this memorial I am indebted to articles by Don Anastasio Alfaro in 'El Diario de Costa Rica,' of July 20 and 29, and Mr. P. W. Chamberlain, of Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Elected at the second annual meeting, in 1884.



*Josef C. Johnston*

love of study were common traits. His father, Don Manuel Zeledón, for thirty years governor of the district or canton of San José, was a man of great integrity, well versed in the art of governing wisely, and possessed of so wonderful a memory that it is said he remembered all the laws, on every subject, enacted since the independence of the country, in 1821, as well as all the incidents connected with their discussion in the Congress.

From earliest childhood young José took great interest in birds; but until the arrival in Costa Rica, in 1854, of Dr. Alexander von Frantzius, a German naturalist, had no one to help or direct him. Dr. von Frantzius, who was a friend and, while in Costa Rica, correspondent of Dr. Jean Cabanis, the celebrated German ornithologist,<sup>1</sup> established in San José a pharmacy, in which José was employed as a clerk, thus learning, under a most competent and sympathetic employer, the business which later became his avocation. This was a fortunate association for Don José who, under Dr. von Frantzius' tuition, learned the correct names of the birds of his native country and became versed in systematic ornithology. Although collecting for Dr. von Frantzius as early as 1862 his first regular field work, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was done in 1866, when he made large collections at Cervantes, six miles east of Cartago, on the road to Juan Vías; the following year collecting at Las Cruces de Candelária, and subsequently at La Palma de San José, in the depression between the volcanoes of Irazú and Barba, at Santa Maria de Dota, Tucurrique, Pacaca, and various intermediate points. Most of the specimens then collected were sent, through Dr. von Frantzius, to the Berlin Museum.

On his return to Germany, in 1868, Dr. von Frantzius took young Zeledón to Washington, where, after introducing and commending him to Professor Baird, he was installed as an assistant (without pay) in the Smithsonian Institution, in order that he might have the opportunity to study the collection of birds there and the ornithological literature. It was there that the writer, immediately after his return from field work in Utah, under the U. S. Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, in the autumn or early

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<sup>1</sup> Author of the well-known 'Museum Heineanum' and founder of the 'Journal für Ornithologie.'

winter of 1868, first met him, and then was begun a mutual friendship that endured to the end.

When, in 1872, Professor William M. Gabb organized his expedition to Costa Rica, Don José was appointed zoologist. In this capacity he was sent by Professor Gabb to the then unexplored wilderness of Talamanca, where he made a large and valuable collection of birds—the first ever made there—but at the cost of sufferings from hardships, privations, and starvation from which he almost perished and were the foundation of infirmities from which he was never free during the remainder of his life.

The pharmacy established by Dr. von Frantzius eventually came into Don José's possession, first as a partnership under the firm name of Herman y Zeledón (Herman and Zeledón); but after the death of his partner the latter's interest was purchased by Don José, though in respectful memory of his late associate the name of the establishment was never changed. The business grew and, under good management, the "Botica Francesa," as it was called, brought its owner a handsome competence. This business, which had grown to wholesale proportions, naturally claimed the greater part of Don José's time; but he never lost interest in ornithology and managed to make occasional collecting trips or employed others to collect for him. He thus amassed a considerable collection which, on the establishment, principally through his own efforts, of the Costa Rican National Museum, he presented to that institution.

Mr. Zeledón's services to ornithology were not so much through contributions to its literature as by other equally if not more effective means. His contributions of material for the study of Costa Rican birds was very important, comprising in the aggregate several thousand specimens, among which were a considerable number of species, several genera, and one family of birds that were new to science; but of even greater value to science were the service that he has rendered by facilitating the work of the many specialists, representing all branches of natural history, who have from time to time visited Costa Rica for the purpose of making collections and observations, each in his own particular line. In this most important co-operation Don José spared neither time, trouble, nor expense; and it may be said, in many cases at

least, that without the aid which he thus rendered, but a small fraction of the success resulting from such trips could have been realized. His wide acquaintanceship throughout the country, embracing many proprietors of large estates and others of local importance and influence, enabled him to provide for such visitors the most favorable stations for their work, arrangements for transportation, and other indispensable facilities; and so great was the respect and esteem in which Don José was held throughout the country that his name was a veritable pass-word, admitting all who bore a letter from him to the same cordial hospitality that would be extended to a long-known friend; and this in Costa Rica (as in other parts of Latin America) means more than is realized by those who have not been so fortunate as to experience it.

Mr. Zeledón did not aspire to literary honors, in fact was strangely averse to literary effort of any sort; consequently his publications are few in number, embracing, so far as I am able to ascertain at present, only four titles. The first, a 'Catalogue of the Birds of Costa Rica,' was published in 1885, in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum (Vol. viii, 1885, pp. 104-118). The following year there appeared, in a book by Don Joaquin Bernardo Calvo, the title of which is unknown to me, a paper on Costa Rican birds with biological notes based on his personal observations; and since these were, in most cases at least, the first published information on the habits of the species mentioned, the paper is of much interest and value. In 1887 (*Anales del Museo Nacional de Costa Rica*, i, pp. 103-135) there appeared a revised list of Costa Rican birds, under the title of 'Catalogo de las Aves de Costa Rica,' with localities represented by specimens in the collection of the Museo Nacional; and the following year, in the same journal (i, 1888, p. 3), he described a new species of Wood-rail, *Aramides plumbeicollis*. He himself described or named only three of the many new species which he discovered; and of these, owing to an unfortunate and most unfair ruling of the nomenclatural experts, only one can bear his name as the describer. These are: *Aramides plumbeicollis*, referred to above; *Carpodectes antoniae*, named by him in memory of a deceased sister (described and figured in 'The Ibis,' 5th ser., ii, Jan., 1884, p. 27, pl. 2), and *Cotinga ridgwayi* (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, x, 1887, p. 1, pl. 6, fig. 3).

In the field, Don José's enthusiasm and energy were unbounded, as I had ample opportunity to observe when with him on many collecting trips; and I have never known a better field ornithologist nor one more accomplished in wood-craft and other requisites of that vocation.

The limited time allowed for the preparation of this memoir prevents a careful investigation as to the number of new species and subspecies discovered by Mr. Zeledón or by collectors employed by him, and by him first brought to the notice of those who described them. The following list, somewhat hastily compiled, will show that his discoveries are numerous and important: *Aramides plumbeicollis*, *Attila citreopyga luteola*, *A. tephrocephala*, *Catharus mexicanus fumosus*, *Carpodectes antoniae*, *Celeus loricatus diversus*, *Chlorospingus zeledoni*, *Coryphotriccus alborittatus distinctus*, *Cotinga ridgwayi*, *Cyanocorax affinis zeledoni*, *Cyanolyca argentigula*, *C. cucullata*, *Cymbilaimus lineatus fasciatus*, *Cypseloides niger costaricensis*, *Daenis pulcherrima aureinucha* (from Ecuador)<sup>1</sup>, *Dendromis validus costaricensis*, *Formicarius umbrosus*, *Grallaria intermedia*, *Idiotriccus zeledoni*, *Lanio melanopygius*, *Myrmeciza exsul occidentalis*, *M. zeledoni*, *Nyctibius griseus costaricensis*, *Otus cooperi*, *Picumnus olivaceus flavotinctus*, *Pipra pipra anthracina*, *Pittasoma michleri zeledoni*, *Piranga leucoptera latifasciata*, *Polioptila superciliaris magna*, *Pseudocolaptes lawrencei*, *Sclerurus camigularis*, *Tachyphonus axillaris*, *Thryophilus rufalbus castanonotus*, *Thryophilus zeledoni*, *Thryorchilus basultoii*, *Troglodytes ochraceus*, *Xiphocolaptes emigrans costaricensis*, *Xiphorhynchus nanus costaricensis*, *Xiphorhynchus punctigula*, *Zeledonia coronata*.<sup>2</sup> Besides these forms actually new to science, Mr. Zeledón added to the Costa Rican fauna many species already known from adjacent countries.

The name of Zeledón is perpetuated in the following new species, subspecies, genus and family of Costa Rican birds which have been dedicated to him: *Chlorospingus zeledoni*, *Cochlearius zeledoni*, *Cyanocorax affinis zeledoni*, *Idiotriccus zeledoni*, *Myrmeciza zeledoni*, *Pittasoma michleri zeledoni*, *Thryophilus zeledoni*,

<sup>1</sup> The type sent for description by Mr. Zeledón to the U. S. National Museum.

<sup>2</sup> It is probable that additional species first collected by Mr. Zeledón were described by George N. Lawrence and Dr. Cabanis.

*Zeledonia coronata* (new genus), and *Zeledonidæ*, the last a very distinct family, containing, so far as known, a single monotypic genus, and peculiar to Costa Rica.

All who knew him well will agree as to Don José's personal character. He was one of the strongest and at the same time most admirable characters it has been my good fortune to know. Genuinely modest, unassuming, sincere, sympathetic, charitable, and courageous; candid in giving his opinions when asked, but never needlessly nor offensively expressing them; indifferent to the more artificial or senseless conventionalities of society, he nevertheless was deeply interested in all public questions and alert in all matters pertaining to the improvement or advancement of his country. Privately, he lived his own life, true in all respects to himself but no less true to his friends. He was full of sympathy for others, especially those whom he knew to be struggling against odds with some meritorious undertaking, either in science or business. When, through his fine business ability, he became possessed of an ample fortune none who applied to him for help were turned away, unless known to be wholly unworthy. Indeed, in many cases it was not necessary to ask for his aid, or even to drop a hint that it was desired; his keenly intuitive mind and sympathetic interest detected the need and his response was spontaneous. In this connection I cannot, in justice to his memory, refrain from giving two examples of these characteristics of Don José. Being aware that much additional material from Costa Rica was urgently needed by the U. S. National Museum in the preparation of 'Birds of North and Middle America,' and knowing that the funds at the command of the Museum were not sufficient to cover the expense of an extended visit to that country, he generously proposed to pay all the expenses, not only those necessarily incurred while actually in the field but also the cost of transportation from Washington to San José and return; not only this, but he gave a very large part of his valuable time, during the nine months that were employed in collecting there, to the service of our National Museum, accompanying me on all trips or delegating his friend Don Anastasio Alfaro, Director of the Museo Nacional, to take me in charge on the few occasions when he himself was unable to go. Further, he and Don Anastasio induced the Government to detail

the taxidermist of the Museo Nacional to accompany me, thus relieving me of the drudgery of preparing specimens and leaving me vastly more time for exploration and observation. It is a great pleasure for me to testify to the perfection of all the arrangements made by Don José, the minutest details having been attended to with such thoroughness that there was never the slightest "hitch," delay, nor annoyance of any kind. Our cartmen (*carreteros*) and packers were invariably ready when required—indeed it was sometimes they who had to wait—and I can say with truth that, no matter what the experience of others may have been, I saw nothing of that "mañana spirit" so often mentioned by travellers; in short, I have nowhere observed service more prompt or efficient.

It was during our second visit to Costa Rica that the subject of an undertaking with which I had long been struggling was casually mentioned. The sympathetic interest of Don José was at once aroused, and he generously offered to remove the main obstacle to the completion of the task. Otherwise, it is safe to say, 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature' would not, in all probability, have been completed, much less published.<sup>1</sup> Although sometimes sure beforehand that no return would ever be made, he seldom if ever refused the importunity of friends, and therefore he was sometimes shamefully imposed on; but such experiences neither soured his disposition nor prevented him from helping others.

Don José loved his home, which he had the good taste (and, fortunately, the means) to make exceedingly comfortable and attractive, and his home life was ideal. His ample means were never used for display or ostentation, which he loathed, but always for some good purpose, for he looked upon money purely as an instrument for the accomplishment of something useful. Another marked trait in his character was a staunch independence which prevented him from accepting proffered favors, especially those of a political character. During his sojourn in Washington, in 1869-71, for example, his government offered him a pension, to enable him to live more comfortably, but he refused to accept the favor, preferring the needy life of a student with pride in his

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<sup>1</sup> The amount advanced for this purpose has been repaid from sale of the edition.



strength to endure privations; and many years thereafter, when his fine business ability and absolute integrity became a matter of common knowledge he was offered the post of Secretary of the Treasury, which he also declined.

A mutual friend<sup>1</sup> whom I had notified of Don José's death writes me as follows:—

"Don José C. Zeledón was one of those choice spirits of whom Latin America has given far more than its share to civilization.

. . . Of how highly the *naturalista* is regarded throughout the length and breadth of Latin America you know as well as I . . . The first I knew of his work was an acknowledgment of contributions received [at the Smithsonian Institution] from him during the incumbency of Professor Henry."

Mr. Zeledón was married, at San José, on May 8, 1895, to Señorita Amparo Lopez Calleja, who with two adopted daughters, two brothers, and other relatives survive him, and to whom are extended deepest sympathy and condolence.

*Olney, Illinois, August 21, 1923.*

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

##### **The Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) on the New Jersey Coast.**

—On June 1, 1923, I picked up a Sooty Shearwater which had been cast up on the sea beach near Cape May Point, N. J. The plumage was slightly soiled by oil but apparently there was not sufficient to have caused its death. It was in good condition and had evidently been dead but a short time.

Mr. Wharton Huber spoke of this occurrence to a fisherman of his acquaintance at Corson's Inlet a few miles further up the coast and was informed that these dark birds were then quite common near the fishing banks and in confirmation of his statement he later brought him two that were caught on June 4 with hook and line a few miles off shore. All three specimens are now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**The Sooty Shearwater in New Jersey.**—On June 17, 1923, Mr. Turner E. McMullen and the writer examined two dead Sooty Shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) which we found on the beach, above high water mark,

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. James Henry Rice, Jr.