# BIRDS OF THE BROWNSVILLE REGION, SOUTHERN TEXAS.

### BY LUDLOW GRISCOM AND MAUNSELL S. CROSBY.

### (Concluded from p. 537.)

152. Asio flammeus. SHORT-EARED OWL.—A winter resident. Merrill states that during the latter part of January, 1877, a small gathering frequented a field near Brownsville. Pearson startled one from the marsh on an island near Point Isabel, November 25, 1921. Specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken November 25, 1908, January 13, 1910, and January 24, 1911.

153. Strix varia albogilva. TEXAS BARRED OwL.—Presumably a permanent resident of uncertain status. The only evidence of its occurrence is Pearson's record of two birds found in the woodlands bordering Resaca de la Palma December 17, 1921. It is a characteristic bird of the heavily timbered districts north of our area.

154. Otus asio mccalli. TEXAS SCREECH OWL.—A common permanent resident.

155. Bubo virginianus pallescens. WESTERN HORNED OWL.---Another common permanent resident throughout our region.

156. Spectyto cunicularia hypogaea. BURROWING OWL.—Probably a permanent resident. We have seen only February and March specimens from our region, but it is known to breed at Corpus Christi.

157. Glaucidium phalaenoides. FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL.—A common breeding species, probably a permanent resident. However, we have seen no specimens taken later than November 30 (1909), or earlier than March 12 (1897).

158. Micropallas whitneyi idoneus. TEXAS ELF OWL.—A single specimen collected by Armstrong five miles from Hidalgo April 5, 1889, is in the Sennett Collection and was recorded in 'The Auk,' Vol. VI, p. 276. Ridgway ('Birds of North and Middle America,' Vol. VI, p. 810) has assigned this specimen to a new subspecies, *idoneus*. He also mentions Brownsville as a locality in which it has been collected. Salvin and Godman, in the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' Vol. III, p. 37, state that they also received two specimens from Armstrong, taken at Hidalgo.

159. Crotophaga sulcirostris. GROOVE-BILLED ANI.—A local summer resident, occurring in small colonies in the scrub. It ranges up the river to Lomita and was reliably reported at Hildago according to Sennett. This seems entirely probable as it gets as far north as Corpus Christi. We have seen specimens collected between April 10, 1890 and September 19, 1912. Another taken Jan. 19, 1911 is evidence that it occasionally winters. Nests have been found in early June.

160. Geococcyx californianus. ROAD-RUNNER.—A common permanent resident, increasing westward.

161. Coccyzus americanus americanus. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. —A fairly common summer resident, arriving as early as April 15, 1912. It begins nesting almost at once, as a full clutch has been taken on April 23. We have no fall date later than Aug. 30.

162. Ceryle alcyon alcyon. BELTED KINGFISHER.—A permanent resident, but much commoner in winter than as a breeder.

163. Ceryle americana septentrionalis. TEXAS KINGFISHER.— A fairly common permanent resident, in reduced numbers in winter, but always present. It seems to have been largely overlooked by the earlier collectors. Its favorite haunts are the remoter resacas, where its sharp squeak, as it buzzes up stream away from the observer, is the best clue to its presence.

164. Dryobates scalaris symplectus. TEXAS WOODPECKER.—Common permanent resident.

165. Sphyrapicus varius varius. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.— Five previously unrecorded specimens indicate that this species is both a transient and winter visitant. The latest spring date is April 10, 1910.

166. Centurus carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—A rare winter straggler, collected on March 19, 1897 near Brownsville (No. 25315 Dwight Coll.). Another specimen in the same collection was shot on Feb. 16, but the record of the year has been lost. Pearson identified one shot by R. D. Camp at El Sauz early in December, 1921.

167. Centurus aurifrons. GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER.—Common permanent resident.

168. Colaptes auratus luteus. NORTHERN FLICKER.—A rare or uncommon winter visitant. We have seen six specimens taken between Dec. 13 (1910) and Feb. 8 (1881). We positively identified two birds on the Norias Ranch on Jan. 9, 1923 just after a "norther," and Pearson saw one Dec. 10, 1921 on the same ranch.

169. Colaptes cafer collaris. RED-SHAFTER FLICKER.—There is a single specimen in the Dwight Collection taken on Jan. 8, 1912. We saw one near Brownsville on Jan. 5.

170. Antrostomus carolinensis. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—A common transient; April 7, 1910 to May 8, 1910; Aug. 20, 1908 to Oct. 1, 1911.

171. Antrostomus vociferus vociferus. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—A fairly common transient, March 18, 1890 to May 4, 1898. We have no fall dates, but Merrill reports it at that season.

172. Nyctidromus albicollis merrilli. MERRILL'S PARAUQUE.— A common summer resident, the greater number arriving early in March and remaining until the middle of November. A few individuals, however, can always be found in winter. It prefers the dense chaparral along the resacas.

173. Chordeiles virginianus virginianus. NIGHTHAWK.—In addition to the breeding race, Nighthawks occur in the Brownsville region on migration, but too few specimens exist to determine the exact status of the several subspecies. A specimen collected May 4, 1889, is referred to the typical race by Dr. H. C. Oberholser in his monograph of the genus (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 86, 1914, p. 44). Another in the Dwight Collection was shot on Nov. 8, 1908.

174. Chordeiles virginianus henryi. WESTERN NIGHTHAWK.— According to the A. O. U. 'Check-List' arrangement, this race is a common summer resident. Dr. Oberholser, however, refers breeding birds from southeastern Texas to *Ch. v. aserriensis* Cherrie. With ample breeding material at our disposal, we regard this subspecies as worthy of recognition, its claims to distinctness being just as good as those of the Florida Nighthawk. We have seen specimens taken between April 15, 1892, and Sept. 2, 1912. If this view is adopted, *henryi* does not occur in our region.

175. Chordeiles virginianus chapmani. FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK.— A specimen collected March 15, 1892 is referred by Dr. Oberholser to this race (*loc. cit.*, p. 78).

176. Chordeiles virginianus sennetti. SENNETT'S NIGHTHAWK.— A typical example of this subspecies was collected April 25, 1889 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 81590).

177. Chordeiles acutipennis texensis. TEXAS NIGHTHAWK.—A common summer resident, from April 18 (1889) to Sept. 7 (1911).

178. Chaetura pelagica. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—A fairly common transient according to Merrill, arriving about March 20 and returning in September. We have seen specimens taken between March 23 (1880), and April 25 (1911).

179. Archilochus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—A common transient; March 9 (Merrill) to May 6, 1890; Aug. 30, 1912 to Dec. 7 (Merrill).

180. Amizilia tzacatl. RIEFFER'S HUMMINGBIRD.—Accidental visitant from the tropics; two specimens at Fort Brown, June 1876 (Merrill).

181. Amizilia cerviniventris chalconota. BUFF-BELLIED HUMMING-BIRD.—A locally common summer resident, from March 19 (1894) to Aug. 17 (1876). There is one winter record, a specimen in the Sanford Collection taken Jan. 9, 1890.

182. Muscivora forficata. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—A common summer resident from March 19 (1881), to Nov. 17 (1914). Merrill reports a flock of at least 150 birds flying over Fort Brown. Stragglers were observed by Pearson near Brownsville on Dec. 18, 1921.

183. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—Merrill reports this species as rather common during migrations. It was collected by Sennett at Hidalgo May 8, 1877, and May 23, 1889, and seen at Brownsville by Bent May 23, 1923, but it has been taken as early as April 24 at Corpus Christi. We have no autumn records.

184. **Tyrannus melancholichus couchi.** Couch's KINGBIRD.— A common summer resident. We were surprised to find a flock of four on telephone wires at Brownsville on January 5, one of which we collected. Single specimens were also seen on the 6th and 8th, the last one being in song. Smith states that its usual date of arrival is before the middle of March. The Dwight Collection contains birds collected January 1, 1890, and December 5, 1909. All other specimens and references to the species are between March and August.

185. **Tyrannus verticalis.** ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—Sennett is the only writer to record this species, which he first observed and collected at Lomita on May 7, 1878. He reports finding one or two more in the same locality.

186. Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus. DERBY FLYCATCHER.— Smith describes this handsome species as a "permanent resident in moderate numbers," and as "rather thinly dispersed in pairs." We saw from one to six birds on four successive days in January. We have seen numerous specimens taken throughout the year.

187. Myiarchus crinitus. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—A common transient. Merrill did not think any remained to breed, but Smith believes the contrary to be true. With the exception of an apparent casual, taken January 24, 1911, in the Dwight Collection, the migration period appears to be from March 12 (1909), to May 28 (1877), and September 4 (1912), to September 30 (1911).

188. **Myiarchus magister nelsoni.** MEXICAN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. —This bird is called by Sennett the most abundant of the genus and, with the exception of *Muscivora forficata*, of the whole family on the lower Rio Grande. Specimens have been taken from March 10 (1894) to Nov. 20 (1892). Sennett flushed a bird from its nest and six eggs on May 16.

189. **Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens.** ASH-THROATED FLY-CATCHER.—Merrill's comment on this species is "only two specimens of this variety were taken." The only other writer who mentions it is Bent, who reports it as "fairly common and evidently breeding in the timber belts along the resacas near Brownsville.

190. Sayornis phoebe. PHOEBE.—A common winter visitant from October 28, 1908 to March 29, 1909.

191. Sayornis sayus. SAY'S PHOEBE.—Although Merrill states that this bird is more abundant than the preceding in winter, we failed to find it in 1923. Pearson, on the other hand, found it fairly common in 1921. Smith states that it arrives during the last days of October. The latest date on which it has been collected is April 15, 1878, at Lomita.

192. Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—A common transient according to Merrill and Smith. We have seen specimens taken from May 4 to 14 (1877), and Aug. 28 (1911).

193. **Myiochanes virens.** Wood PEWEE.—Sennett found this species not uncommon at Lomita and probably breeding. Smith states that it is the prevailing type of the two Pewees and the only one to breed. The earliest arrival is April 2, 1909. An apparently casual bird collected February 2, 1897 (Dwight Collection, No.25457), another shot by Pearson at El Sauz Dec. 7, 1921, and he saw others. 194. **Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni.** WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Reported by Merrill in August and by Smith in April. There are no specimens in the collections we have examined, but Mr. Smith is of course thoroughly familiar with the species in life.

195. Empidonax flaviventris. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.— Sennett found this species the most abundant of the small Flycatchers. Specimens in his and the Dwight Collections were taken between May 8, 1878, and May 13, 1889. It undoubtedly occurs in autumn.

196. Empidonax virescens. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Undoubtedly a regular transient. Two specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken May 4 and 7, 1909.

197. Empidonax trailli alnorum. ALDER FLYCATCHER.—Two specimens in the Dwight Collection, taken at Brownsville August 22 and 28, 1912, have been determined by Dr. Oberholser as belonging to this subspecies.

A transient for which there are very few records. Merrill reports it Aug. 7, 1876. Sennett collected one at Lomita May 6, 1878, and Smith shot birds on Aug. 22 and 28, 1912. These have all been determined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser.

198. Empidonax minimus. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Probably a fairly common transient. Specimens in the Sennett Collection were taken May 8 and 13, 1878. Merrill recorded it in September. Casual Feb. 7, 1880.

199. **Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus.** VERMILION FLYCATCHER.— A common permanent resident, more numerous in summer.

200. Camptostoma imberbe. BEARDLESS FLYCATCHER.—Apparently a permanent resident, although we did not find it. Specimens collected by Sennett and Smith were taken January 22, February 15, March 2, 11 and 15, May 15 and 23, and July 12, at Lomita, Hidalgo and Harlingen.

201. Otocoris alpestris giraudi. TEXAS HORNED LARK.—This subspecies is a common permanent resident of the coastal prairie.

202. Xanthoura luxuosa glaucescens. GREEN JAY.—This beautiful tropical bird is a common permanent resident in the thick growth along the resacas at Brownsville and Lomita. Smith and Bailey found it as far north as the Rio Coloral, in decreasing numbers. Sets of eggs have been collected from April 19 to May 17.

203. Corvus cryptoleucus. WHITE-NECKED RAVEN.—So far as we can find, our discovery of half a dozen of these birds flying tamely about at Norias Ranch on January 3 and 8, is an eastern extension of the range of this species. Bent also reports them from western Kent and Cameron Counties on May 22 and 24, 1923. Cahn's mention of Crows on Padre Island may refer to this species (Condor, 1922, pp. 169–180). Also reported by DeLaubenfels during the summer of 1924.

204. Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—A common winter resident, from early September (Merrill) till about the first of May (Sennett) when it is replaced by *obscurus*. We saw this form on two occasions in January, but neither of the others.

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205. Molothrus ater obscurus. DWARF COWBIRD.—This is the resident form of the Eastern Cowbird, arriving as early as March 21, 1880, and remaining as late as October 12, 1880. Sennett and Merrill found its eggs in the nests of the Hooded, Bullock's, and Orchard Orioles, Vermilion Flycatcher, Redwing, Texas and Black-throated Sparrows, White-eye and Chat.

206. Tangavius aeneus involucratus. RED-EYED COWBIRD.—This species is a permanent resident, wintering in greatly reduced numbers. Its eggs have been found in the nests of Bullock's, Hooded and Orchard Orioles, the Blue Grosbeak and the Chat.

207. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD.—Reported by Merrill as rare in winter, but known chiefly as a spring transient. We have seen six specimens collected between April 21 (1910) and May 24 (1889).

208. Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi. VERA CRUZ REDWING.— Abundant permanent resident.

209. Sturnella magna hoopesi. RIO GRANDE MEADOWLARK.—The status of the Meadowlarks in our region has not been settled and the statements of the various writers seem to conflict somewhat. Both species are abundant, the present one being the regular breeding species. Smith states that it outnumbers the summering *neglecta* twenty to one and that it is even more common in winter.

210. Sturnella neglecta. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—Apparently not common in summer and abundant in winter (Smith). Sennett failed to find it during his spring visits. We have examined nearly thirty specimens, all taken in winter, but have seen only one *hoopesi* taken in winter. Bent did not find the Western Meadowlark during his May 1923 trip.

211. Icterus melanocephalus auduboni. Audubon's ORIOLE.— Common summer resident, a few wintering.

212. Icterus cucullatus sennetti. SENNETT'S ORIOLE.—The commonest Oriole according to Sennett, Merrill and Singley. Collected from March 2 (1897) to Sept. 17 (1911). Smith states that it raises two, sometimes three broods.

213. Icterus spurius. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Common summer resident, the earliest specimer we have seen having been collected March 26, 1877. Merrill reports it as being plentiful until August.

214. Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—A transient visitor, April 23 (1890) to 27 (1909). There are no autumn specimens, but it should occur in September.

215. Icterus bullocki. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.—Fairly common summer resident, arriving April 13, 1877. A nest with four fresh eggs found at Hidalgo May 7, 1877 (Sennett).

216. Euphagus cyanocephalus. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—Abundant winter resident till May 1 (Sennett), arriving first week in October (Merrill).

218. **Passer domesticus.** HOUSE SPARROW.—Now a fairly common resident at Brownsville and the larger settlements, but by no means numerous. It was not reported by any observer prior to 1910.

219. Astragalinus tristis tristis. GOLDFINCH.—An irregular winter visitant, often fairly common. All specimens examined prove to belong to this subspecies. It has been taken between Jan. 8 (1923), and March 19 (1890).

220. Astragalinus psaltria psaltria. ARKANSAS GOLDFINCH.— Sennett collected one at Lomita May 1, 1877, and saw a few others. There are no other records.

221. Calcarius ornatus. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.—A very rare winter visitant for which there are only three records; Feb. 26, 1880, March 29, 1889, and Nov. 6, 1908.

222. Poœcetes gramineus confinis. WESTERN VESPER SPARROW.— Merrill reported this species as present in spring and autumn at Brownsville, but must have overlooked it in winter. It is abundant at this season about Corpus Christi, but rapidly decreases southward, and we did not see it south of Norias in January. Sennett records it as late as April 29, 1876. The only specimen we have been able to examine belongs to the western subspecies.

223. **Passerculus sandwichensis savanna**. SAVANNAH SPARROW.— A winter visitant of uncertain status, owing to the impossibility of distinguishing the two subspecies in life. We have seen only two specimens of this race in the Dwight Collection, collected Nov. 18, 1908, and March 23, 1912. Smith reports both races as common, but the series he collected is chiefly the western form. Bent, however, states that the prevailing form is the eastern, and noted it as late as the first half of May. Two specimens collected by Camp at El Sauz, Dec. 12, 1921, prove to be the eastern race.

224. Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus. WESTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW.—Abundant winter visitant from Oct. 26, 1912, to April 9, 1876. All but four of the specimens examined belong here.

225. Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus. WESTERN GRASS-HOPPER SPARROW.—A fairly common winter visitant from Oct. 4, 1912, to April 19, 1878. None of the numerous specimens examined can be referred to the eastern race.

226. Passerherbulus maritimus sennetti. TEXAS SEASIDE SPAR-ROW.—Collected by Armstrong in the marshes near the mouth of the Rio Grande, but whether it is resident there remains to be determined.

227. Chondestes grammacus grammacus. LARK SPARROW.— Either a rare transient or rare winter visitant. We have seen three specimens taken Oct. 4, 1912 and April 9, 1877. At Corpus Christi it is apparently less rare. This race winters south into Mexico, and its winter home is no longer a mystery.

228. Chondestes grammacus strigatus. WESTERN LARK SPARROW. —A common permanent resident, abundant during migration in April and September.

229. Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. WHITE-CROWNED SPAR-ROW.—An abundant winter visitant from Nov. 13, 1891, to April 2, 1876.

230. Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli. GAMBEL'S SPARROW.— Reported by Merrill as "about as common as the preceding." We have seen only three specimens, Feb. 2 and 11, 1880, and April 10, 1878.

231. Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Apparently a very rare winter visitant. Merrill heard one singing at Fort Brown, May 11, 1877. We have seen two specimens taken Feb. 24, 1880, and Nov. 18, 1909.

232. Spizella monticola ochracea. WESTERN TREE SPARROW.— Accidental visitant. One bird collected at Point Isabel by Smith, Oct. 28, 1908, as recorded by him in 'The Condor.' This specimen is not in the Dwight Collection. The early date is even more remarkable than the southern latitude of the capture.

233. Spizella passerina arizonae. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.— The Chipping Sparrow was reported by Merrill and Sennett as occurring in April and May. The subspecies is in doubt, and there are no specimens in the Sennett Collection. Smith, however, collected one on April 22, 1912, which is unquestionably *arizonae*. It will probably be found in winter.

234. Spizella pallida. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—Reported by Merrill as abundant in winter, but the evidence before us would indicate that it is a transient only. All the specimens seen were collected between March 11 (1890) and April 28 (1876). Pearson, however, collected one at El Sauz, Dec. 12, 1921.

235. Spizella pusilla pusilla. FIELD SPARROW.—The Field Sparrow is apparently a rare and irregular winter visitant. We have seen but one specimen, collected Feb. 26, 1880, at Lomita.

236. Spizella pusilla arenacea. WESTERN FIELD SPARROW.—One specimen, collected at Lomita, Feb. 22, 1889, has been determined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as this subspecies. The tail measures 66 mm., but the bird is unfortunately not sexed. Another was collected at El Sauz, Dec. 12, 1921, by Pearson, and was identified by W. deW. Miller.

237. Amphispiza bilineata bilineata. BLACK-THROATED SPARROW.— Common permanent resident, preferring the most arid country.

238. **Peucaea botterii.** BOTTERI'S SPARROW.—This species was discovered by Merrill in some abundance on a salt prairie east of Brownsville, and he found a nest and four eggs on June 16, 1877. Sennett's collectors sent him two specimens, collected May 24, 1889, and Aug. 25, 1888. It has not been rediscovered by recent collectors.

329. Peucaea cassini. CASSIN'S SPARROW.—A summer resident according to Sennett and Merrill, arriving as early as March 19, 1880, and there are numerous specimens in the Sennett Collection taken in

June and July. Smith on the other hand records it as "arriving in numbers after the storm of Oct. 28, 1908," and in a later publication (1916) mentions it as numerous after Feb. 16. His specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken in November.

240. Melospiza melodia melodia. Song Sparrow.—A rare and irregular winter visitant, recorded by Merrill in February and December. Smith records one captured Jan. 10, 1909.

241. Melospiza lincolni lincolni. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—Abundant winter visitant, remaining as late as May 5, 1877. We have seen no specimens taken before December, but it surely arrives much earlier.

242. Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW.—Recorded only by Smith who found a few birds, and collected one on Dec. 23, 1908 in the marshes on the Rio Grande east of Brownsville. We saw two on Jan. 10 in the same vicinity.

243. Arremonops rufivirgatus. TEXAS SPARROW.—Common permanent resident.

244. Oreospiza chlorura. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE.—Two specimens collected by Sennett at Lomita on April 12 and 26, 1878. Noted near Harlingen on February 15 by Smith and collected by him at Brownsville on January 7, 1912. There are no other records.

245. Cardinalis cardinalis canicaudus. GRAY-TAILED CARDINAL.— A common permanent resident.

246. Pyrrhuloxia sinuata texana. TEXAS PYRRHULOXIA. —A permanent resident, abundant during the spring migration, but not common in winter, when it forms small flocks. Sennett found its nests at Lomita on April 17, 1878. We were unable to find it in January.

247. Zamelodia ludoviciana. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—The only specimen available is a juvenal male collected at Lomita by Sennett May 4, 1880. It should be a regular transient.

248. Guiraca caerulea caerulea. BLUE GROSBEAK.—The large series of specimens examined prove to be the Eastern form, an identification in which Dr. Dwight concurs. It is a common summer resident, arriving as early as April 6, 1910.

249. **Passerina cyanea.** INDIGO BUNTING.—A fairly common transient, taken between March 26 and May 7, 1909. It no doubt occurs in autumn, but we have seen no specimen.

250. Passerina versicolor versicolor. VARIED BUNTING.—A fairly common summer resident, a number of specimens having been taken between April 6 (1890) and July 22 (1880).

251. Passerina ciris. PAINTED BUNTING.—A common summer resident, taken between April 16 (1890) and July 21 (1880).

252. Sporophila morelleti sharpei. SHARPE'S SEED-EATER.— Fairly common summer resident. A few winter, as the Sennett Collection contains February and March specimens, and Smith found it at Harlingen from January 13 to February 28.

253. Spiza americana. DICKCISSEL.—A common spring transient

in flocks, some remaining to breed. Specimens collected from April 19, 1899, to September 2, 1912.

254. Calamospiza melanocorys. LARK BUNTING.—Merrill reports this species as rather common in winter, but perhaps it is irregular, as we did not find it in January. Specimens from our region were collected November 23, 1908, January 27, 1909, February 2, 1880, and April 3, 1878.

255. Piranga ludoviciana. WESTERN TANAGER.—Two specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken at Brownsville on January 7 and 14, 1911. Another was shot Dec. 12, 1911, and the species was noted up to March in 1911, by Mr. Smith, who regarded it as a rare winter visitant (See 'Auk,' 1912, p. 255).

256. Piranga rubra. SUMMER TANAGER.—A common summer resident from March 10 (1880) to August 23 (1880). A specimen collected by the U. S. Boundary Survey on February 11 (Baird).

257. **Piranga rubra cooperi.** COOPER'S TANAGER.—Specimen No. 28635 in the Dwight Collection, taken at Brownsville, February 22, 1910, is referred to this form by Dr. Dwight. Its occurrence is purely accidental.

258. Progne subis subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—A common summer resident about the towns, arriving as early as Jan. 20 (Merrill).

259. **Progne chalybea.** GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN.—A single female collected at Hidalgo May 18, 1889, and correctly identified by Mr. W. deW. Miller ('Auk,' 1906, p. 226). Its status in the United States remains to be definitely determined.

260. Petrochelidon lunifrons tachina. LESSER CLIFF SWALLOW.— A common summer resident, particularly along the Rio Grande River above Brownsville. Arrives April 11, 1889, and remains until the end of August (Merrill). Typical *lunifrons* undoubtedly occurs on migration but we have seen no specimens.

261. Hirundo erythrogastra. BARN SWALLOW.—A regular transient, in spring as early as April 12 (Merrill), in autumn from Aug. 9 (Merrill) to Oct. 17, 1908.

262. Iridoprocne bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—A common transient, irregularly present in winter, and remaining in spring until about April 1.

263. **Riparia riparia.** BANK SWALLOW.—A regular transient. The latest spring date is May 3, 1878.

264. Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—Collected in our area only by Smith, who has captured specimens from March 22 (1913) to April 15 (1911). It is presumably a regular transient, and might be found nesting.

265. Bombycilla cedrorum. CEDAR WAXWING.—A common transient, usually present in winter as well. Remains as late as May 24, 1912.

266. Lanius ludovicianus migrans. MIGRANT SHRIKE.—A winter visitant of uncertain status. There are six specimens in the Dwight Collection, determined as this subspecies by Dr. Dwight, taken from Oct. 5 (1911) to Jan. 7 (1909).

268. Vireosylva olivacea. RED-EVED VIREO.—A common transient: April 14 (1909) to May 13 (1877): Sept. 19 (1912). to Sept. 30 (1911).

269. Vireosylva flavoviridis. YELLOW-GREEN VIREO.—A tropical species of accidental occurrence; one collected by Merrill Aug. 23, 1877, at Fort Brown.

270. Vireosylva gilva gilva. WARBLING VIREO.—Only detected once; collected by Merrill Oct. 2, 1877. Perhaps a regular transient.

271. Lanivireo solitarius solitarius. SOLITARY VIREO.—An uncommon winter visitant from Nov. 30 (1908) to April 30 (1878). Merrill reports one on the astonishing date of Aug. 23, 1877.

272 Vireo griseus griseus. WHITE-EYED VIREO.—Perhaps a regular winter visitant. We have seen six specimens of the typical form collected between Sept. 19 (1912) and March 11 (1880).

273. Vireo griseus micrus. SMALL WHITE-EYED VIREO.—Common permanent resident, singing throughout the winter.

274. Vireo belli belli. BELL'S VIREO.—Reported in our region only by Meirill and Singley. The specimens recorded by Sennett prove to be the preceding species. Bell's Vireo, however, should certainly occur as a transient.

275. Mniotilta varia. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—A fairly common winter visitant, especially evident, during the migrations. Specimens taken from November 17 (1909) to May 7 (1909).

276. Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—While this species is probably a regular migrant, we have found only one record of it, a specimen taken at Lomita by Frazar on March 26, 1880.

277. Vermivora pinus. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.—Although no doubt a regular transient, we have found only two records of this species, one taken at Hidalgo by Merrill in May, and another collected April 10, 1890, at Brownsville.

278. Vermivora chrysoptera. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—The only writer recording this species is Merrill, who states that he took several specimens in the spring.

279. Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla. NASHVILLE WARBLER.— A fairly common winter resident. We found three in one day along a resaca during which time we saw about ten Orange-crowned Warblers. It has been collected from November 2 (1909) to May 8 (1877).

280. Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis. CALAVERAS WARBLER.— There are four specimens of this western subspecies in the Dwight Collection and five of the former, all taken by Smith, so the two forms may perhaps occur in nearly equal numbers. These were taken February 22, 1910, March 31, 1909, and April 2 and 27, 1909.

281. Vermivora celata celata. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—A common winter visitant, taken between October 28 (1908) and March 29 (1877 and 1911). Several specimens approach *lutescens*, but none examined are absolutely typical.

282. Vermivora peregrina. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—Probably a regular transient and rare winter visitant. We find only three specimens; April 26 and May 1, 1878 (Sennett) and January 9, 1910 (Smith).

283. Compsothlypis americana usneae. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.—Probably a common transient, but mentioned by few. Sennett caught one on a boat off Point Isabel on March 20, 1877. Two other specimens in his collection were taken May 4, 1891, and April 29, 1890. These birds have been referred by Mr. W. deW. Miller to the Mississippi Valley race *ramalinae*, which is not recognized in the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'

284. Compsothlypis pitiayumi nigrilora. SENNETT'S WARBLER.— NETT'S WARBLER.—Brownsville is the type locality of this form which is a common summer resident, taken from February 26 (1880) to September 17 (1911). A single specimen was collected at Brownsville on December 28, 1910.

285. Dendroica aestiva aestiva. Yellow Warbler.-A common Specimens examined were collected from April 14 (1909) to transient. May 14 (1910); and from Aug. 22 to 30, 1912. There is no evidence that any form of this species breeds. There is an interesting complication here with the subspecies *ineditus* Phillips, described from 14 specimens taken in the fall migration at Matamoros just across the river from Brownsville, and which were naturally presumed to represent a breeding race (see 'The Auk,' 1911, p. 85), whose range included the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Specimens before us both from Texas and Matamoros taken in migration are unquestionably typical aestiva and cannot be referred to ineditus for a moment. These two points might be taken to indicate that ineditus is a synonym of aestiva, but we do not believe it. The fact remains that the full description indicates a perfectly distinct subspecies. which could not be confused with typical aestiva. Secondly, its characters, roughly speaking, intermediate between dugesi and sonorana, are in accord with its general geographic position. We venture the guess, therefore, that ineditus is a perfectly valid race, and that its probable breeding area is in the more mountainous country further west. Like numerous other forms, recorded in this paper, it might migrate east and southeast in fall, at least occasionally. While there is, of course, the possibility that it might breed at Matamoros and not in Texas three miles away, this seems highly improbable. We are familiar with both places and ecologically they are identical. Nor does the distribution of any other species confirm this supposition. In accordance with this view, ineditus should certainly be detected in our region.

286. Dendroica aestiva sonorana. SONORA YELLOW WARBLER.— Casual on migration, specimen collected by Smith, Sept. 16, 1912, now in Dwight Collection. It cannot be referred to the recently described *ineditus*.

287. Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa. ALASKA YELLOW WARBLER.— Presumably casual on migration and in winter. Specimens in the Dwight Collection were collected May 8, 1910, Sept. 16, 1912, Dec. 14, 1908, and

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Jan. 5, 1911. They cannot be referred to the recently described New-foundland *amnicola*.

288. Dendroica coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.—This and the next species are equally abundant in winter, according to Smith. Sennett saw it up to about April 15, but we have found no autumn arrival date.

289. Dendroica auduboni auduboni. AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—In spite of its reported abundance, we have only seen one specimen, in the Dwight Collection, taken at Brownsville on March 12, 1909.

290. Dendroica magnolia. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—A regular transient. We have seen specimens taken from April 3 (1890) to May 17 (1878) and from October 7 (1912) to October 29 (1888).

291. Dendroica cerulea. CERULEAN WARBLER.—Probably a regular transient, but we have found only one specimen, in the Sennett Collection, taken at Brownsville on April 14, 1890.

292. Dendroica pensylvanica. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—A regular transient. We have seen specimens taken between April 4 (1892) and May 13 (1878), but it undoubtedly occurs in autumn as well.

293. Dendroica castanea. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—Merrill found this species not rare during the spring migration. Four specimens in the Dwight Collection were taken on May 4 and 7, 1909. It will no doubt be found during the autumn migration.

294. **Dendroica fusca.** BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—A regular transient, taken from April 3 (1890) to May 7 (1909) (seen along Petranilla Creek by Mrs. Bailey on May 11), and on October 2, 1912.

295. Dendroica dominica albilora. SYCAMORE WARBLER.—Merrill states that this is one of the first migrants to return in autumn, which conclusion is borne out by a specimen taken at Brownsville, August 27, 1912. A few winter. The latest spring specimen was taken March 26, 1877.

An annotation to Dresser's paper by A. L. Heermann states that the latter observed several about Brownsyille in December, 1862.

296. Dendroica virens. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—A common transient from March 6 (1909) to May 12 (1909). The only autumn specimen was taken October 29, 1908. A casual winter bird collected January 27, 1911, at Brownsville.

297. Dendroica vigorsi. PINE WARBLER.—A single specimen, in the Dwight Collection, taken February 11, 1911.

298. Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis. NORTHERN WATER THRUSH.—Reported as a common transient by Sennett and Merrill. The former collected a number on May 7, 1878.

299. Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis. GRINNELL'S WATER THRUSH.—This western subspecies is also a regular transient. We have seen specimens collected May 23, 1889, at Hidalgo and from October 2 to 7, 1912, at Brownsville.

300. Seiurus motacilla. LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH.—A regular transient. Specimens have been taken between March 15 and 22, 1912, and August 25 and 26, 1880.

301. Oporornis philadelphia. MOURNING WARBLER.—A fairly common transient. Specimens have been taken from May 4 (1909) to May 13 (1878) and from August 28 (1912) to September 12 (1911).

302. Geothlypis trichas trichas. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—A common winter visitant. One form or another breeds, but we have found no specimens collected during the breeding season to determine which it is.

303. Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT.— A common winter visitant between November 30 (1911) and April 19 (1890).

304. Chamaethlypis poliocephala. RIO GRANDE YELLOW-THROAT.— A rare and little known summer resident, first found in the United States on June 8, 1890.

305. Icteria virens virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—A common summer resident from March 17 (1912) to August 26 (1912). A number of specimens approach *longicauda* in characters, and might be referred to either race with equal propriety.

306. Wilsonia citrina. HOODED WARBLER.—A single specimen in the Dwight Collection, taken at Brownsville, April 2, 1909. Merrill took several in April, 1876.

307. Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. WILSON'S WARBLER.—A regular transient, though not yet collected in autumn. Dates are from April 26 (1878) to May 11 (1889). Casual in winter, a specimen collected Feb. 11, 1911.

308. Wilsonia pusilla pileolata. PILEOLATED WARBLER.—A single specimen of *Wilsonia pusilla* in the Dwight Collection (No. 28743), taken at Brownsville April 27, 1909, is distinctly referable to this form.

309. Wilsonia canadensis. CANADA WARBLER.—A late spring and early autumn transient. Specimens taken between May 2 and 12, 1909, and on August 28, 1912.

310. Setophaga ruticilla. REDSTART.—A regular transient. Specimens taken between latter part of April (Merrill) and May 9, 1878, and from August 31 (1912) to October 24 (1908). Mrs. Bailey saw one on Petranilla Creek.

311. Anthus rufescens. PIPIT.—Abundant winter visitant in flocks, October to March (Merrill).

312. Anthus spraguei. SPRAGUE'S PIPIT.—Common winter visitant, usually in pairs, taken between November 8 (1908) and March 12 (1881). So far as our observations went, the two species do not mix.

313. Oreoscoptes montanus. SAGE THRASHER.—Very rare winter visitant. Two specimens taken at Lomita, January 31 and February 13, 1880. Another found by Pearson at Nopal Ranch Dec. 11, 1921. We collected one between Brownsville and Point Isabel on January 4, 1923.

314. Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD.— Abundant permanent resident.

315. Dumetella carolinensis. CATBIRD.—A regular transient, a few wintering. Taken as late as May 4, 1909.

317. Toxostoma curvirostre curvirostre. CURVE-BILLED THRASHER. —Common permanent resident in arid country.

318. Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi. CACTUS WREN.—A permanent resident, common at Hidalgo and Lomita, local or uncommon near Brownsville.

319. Thryothorus ludovicianus lomitensis. Lomita WREN.---Common permanent resident.

320. Thryomanes bewicki cryptus. TEXAS WREN.—Common permanent resident.

321. Troglodytes aedon aedon. HOUSE WREN.—Only one specimen definitely of this subspecies, collected Feb. 12, 1909.

322. Troglodytes aedon parkmani. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.— Some form of House Wren is a fairly common winter visitant. Most of the specimens examined belong to *parkmani*. They were collected between Oct. 1 (1912) and March 17 (1880).

323. Telmatodytes palustris iliacus. PRAIRIE MARSH WREN.—A regular winter visitant as far south as Corpus Christi, but little known in our region. Merrill obtained one on Dec. 16, 1876. We saw three on Jan. 10, 1923 in the marshes near Point Isabel.

324. Baeolophus atricristatus atricristatus. BLACK-CRESTED TIT-MOUSE.—Common permanent resident.

325. Auriparus flaviceps flaviceps. VERDIN.—A permanent resident, common westward at Lomita and Hidalgo.

326. Regulus calendula calendula. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— Common winter visitant, remaining as late as May 13, 1878.

327. Polioptila caerulea caerulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.---Common permanent resident, abundant during migration, especially in late March.

328. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens. VEERY.—Casual in winter, specimen collected Jan. 1, 1877. Probably a regular transient, but reported only by Mrs. Bailey in early May, 1900, near El Sauz.

329. Hylocichla aliciae aliciae. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—Only one record, May 5, 1910, but probably a regular transient.

330. Hylocichla guttata pallasi. HERMIT THRUSH.—An irregular winter visitant. We have seen but four specimens taken Feb. 5, 1880, March 10, 1880, Jan. 23, 1910, and Jan. 8, 1912.

331. Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis. SIERRA HERMIT THRUSH.— Five specimens must be referred to this subspecies, which would seem to have a rather surprising migration route. Our determination is confirmed, however, by the capture of this bird in Western Texas and Tamaulipas. Extreme dates are Oct. 29, 1908, and March 29, 1909.

332. Planesticus migratorius migratorius. ROBIN.—Irregular winter visitant, often common. We have seen but four specimens, which are all of this subspecies.

333. Sialia sialis sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Usually an uncommon winter visitant, sometimes common after severe "northers," no record of arrival

earlier than Nov. 27, 1911. Merrill records two pairs seen in May, 1876, which were undoubtedly breeding. Sennett collected a pair May 3, 1877, near Hidalgo, which he believed were breeding, and Bent found a nest with broken eggs, taken near Brownsville, in the collection of R. D. Camp. Breeding birds from Tamaulipas and southern Texas have been described as *Sialia sialis episcopus* Oberholser. The two Sennett specimens mentioned above confirm the characters ascribed to it.

### HYPOTHETICAL LIST.

The following list contains species of which a specimen has never been secured in the region, certain records regarded as doubtful or erroneous, and a few cases where reidentification would seem to be desirable.

Sterna dougalli. ROSEATE TERN.-On Jan. 4, 1923, we were studying the numerous waterfowl of a small lagoon near Baya Grande. Ducks, Pelicans, Geese, Cormorants, Herons, and Shore-birds of many species were in every direction, and hovering over the water were Gull-billed, Caspian and Forster's Terns. We took up a position near an abandoned railroad trestle across a narrow neck of the lagoon, where there was a shelter of thick bushes. The Terns were constantly flying across the neck within 100 feet of us. One single bird flying by was immediately recognized as an adult Roseate Tern. The long outer tail-feathers, the graceful flight, the pure white underparts and the black bill were noticeable with the naked eye. In addition, the characteristic note, a harsh "cack," was heard several times. Both of us were thoroughly familiar in life with this species and recognized it immediately. Unfortunately it was too near most of the time to collect, and at the proper distance would have fallen into deep water, where it could not have been retrieved. While this species has never been recorded from southern Texas, its occurrence there is by no means remarkable, as it has been taken in winter on the coast of British Honduras.

**Sterna fuscata.** SOOTY TERN.—The Sooty Tern was found nesting commonly by Sennett near Corpus Christi, and must have occurred in our area at least on migration. It seems to have disappeared completely, as it is not reported by any subsequent observer, but there are specimens in the Sanford Collection taken by Armstrong in "Nueces County" in 1913. A specimen taken Sept. 20, 1889, on Padre Island is not definitely known to have been captured in our area.

**Anas rubripes.** BLACK DUCK.—The Black Duck has never been recorded further south than Corpus Christi. On Jan. 4, 1920, we saw a flock of seven in excellent light just out of shot-gun range, sitting on the water in some grass. The dark color, the streaked throat, and the absence of white in the wing, eliminated the Mallard and the Mottled Duck at a

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glance. As they flew away, two drakes obviously had yellow bills and bright red legs.

Guara rubra. SCARLET IBIS.—Dresser was "assured by friends" that this species was found in a lagoon near Brownsville during the winter.

**Tympanuchus americanus attwateri.** ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN.—Reported by Merrill as occasionally seen on the prairies about Miradores ranch, thirty miles north of Fort Brown, according to information supplied by a "person familiar with the bird."

Buteo borealis harlani. HARLAN'S HAWK.—One observed by Merrill in November, 1876, but not secured.

**Conuropsis carolinensis.** CAROLINA PAROQUET.—A specimen in the Dwight Collection labelled "Brownsville" is not regarded by Dr. Dwight as authentically labelled.

**Trogon ambiguus.** COPPERY-TAILED TROGON.—Mr. Ridgway records this Trogon from Fort Brown, citing a footnote on the introductory page of Merrill's paper, published in 1878 ('Birds of N. and Mid. America,' V, p. 771). This footnote actually states, however, that two specimens were shot, one at Ringgold Barracks and one at Las Cuevas a few miles below. Ringgold Barracks is now known as Rio Grande City. It is two hundred miles up the Rio Grande from Brownsville, and nearly one hundred miles above Hidalgo, and consequently far outside our limits. The record of Fort Brown is therefore erroneous.

**Phloeotomus pileatus** subsp. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Reported by Merrill as seen once near Santa Maria in late May, 1876.

Junco hyemalis subsp. JUNCO.—Pearson records three Juncos which appeared in the yard of the ranch house at Norias, Dec. 9, 1921. They remained for some time. The genus has never been collected so far south in eastern Texas.

**Piranga erythromelas.** SCARLET TANAGER.—Seen by Singley at Hidalgo, May 8, 1887. It should occur regularly on migration.

**Dendroica striata.** BLACKPOLL WARBLER.—Merrill writes that he took a single specimen in August. This species would be purely casual, and the record should be confirmed. It has not been quoted by Cooke in his exhaustive study of the migrations of this species.

Sialia currucoides. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.—"Abundant throughout the whole of southern Texas," (Dresser, 1866). We have seen no specimens taken south of Corpus Christi, and even at San Antonio this species is rare.

# LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL PAPERS ON THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE BROWNSVILLE REGION.

1859. Baird, Spencer F. United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, Department of the Interior, III, part 2, Zoology of the Boundary; Birds.

The survey was commenced late in 1854.

- 1865-1866. Dresser, H. E. Notes on the Birds of Southern Texas. Ibis, II series, I, pp. 312-330; 466-495: 11, pp. 23-46. Made his headquarters at Matamoras, Mexico, from June 26, 1863 until the first week in September.
- 1878. Merrill, James C. Notes on the Ornithology of Southern Texas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, pp. 118–173. An excellent, annotated list of 252 species, based on continuous residence at Brownsville over several years.
- 1878. Sennett, George B. Notes on the Ornithology of the Lower Rio Grande of Texas. Bull. U. S. Geol. Survey, IV, No. 1, pp. 1-66. Results of a two months' trip (March 20-May 20, 1877) chiefly after nesting species. Excellent and detailed notes.
- 1879. Sennett, George B. Further Notes on the Ornithology of the Lower Rio Grande of Texas. Bull. U. S. Geol. Survey, V, No. 3, pp. 371-440.
  Additional potes based on a three months' trip in the spring

Additional notes, based on a three months' trip in the spring of 1878, on 168 species.

- 1887-1895. Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, I-XXVII. Lists specimens from Brownsville originally in the Salvin and Godman Collection.
- 1893. Singley, J. A. List of Birds Observed at Corpus Christi and on the Lower Rio Grande. Geological Survey of Texas, Fourth Annual Report. 1892. part 2, pp. 364–375.
  - Comparatively few statements apply definitely to our region.
- 1901-1919. Ridgway, Robert. The Birds of North and Middle America. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, I-VIII.
- 1910. Smith, Austin Paul. Miscellaneous Bird Notes from the Lower Rio Grande. Condor, XII, pp. 93-103.
   Brief notes on numerous species of land-birds, based on con-

tinuous residence of more than a year.

1916. Bailey, Florence Merriam. Meeting Spring Half Way. Condor, XVIII, pp. 183-190; 214-219.
Bonular account of a wagon twin from Corpus Christi to

Popular account of a wagon trip from Corpus Christi to Brownsville, April 24 to mid-May, 1900.

- 1921. Pearson, T. Gilbert. Notes on the Bird Life of Southeastern Texas. 'Auk,' XXXVIII, No. 4, pp. 513-523. Observations made in early June, 1920.
- 1922. Pemberton, J. R. The Reddish Egrets of Cameron County, Texas. Condor, XXIV, No. 1, pp. 3-12. Based on a visit during May 1921. Mentions other birds breeding on Green Island.
- 1922. Pemberton, J. R. A Large Tern Colony in Texas. Condor, XXIV, No. 2, pp. 37-48.
- 1923. Bent, A. C. Birds Observed in Southeastern Texas in May, 1923. Wilson Bulletin, XXXVI, No. 1, pp. 1-20. In our region from May 22 to 28.

1924. Pearson, T. Gilbert. Notes on the Winter Bird Life of Southeastern Texas. Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York. Nos. 33-36, pp. 113-126. Observations made between November 23 and December 25,

Observations made between November 23 and December 25, 1921.

1924. De Laubenfels, M. W. Summer Birds of Brownsville, Texas. Wilson Bulletin, XXXVI, No. 4, pp. 161-175.

Brief notes on 95 species observed over an indeterminate period after June 25, 1924.

Also numerous general notes by various authors in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' 'Auk' and 'Condor.'

American Museum Natural History, New York, N. Y.