

[TOWNSEND, JOHN KIRK]

1836. The birds of Oregon Territory. (Sixteen photostat pages of a discussion and nominal list furnished the Rev. Samuel Parker by Townsend, dated "Fort Vancouver, Columbia River, April 11th. 1836." Photostat in Washington State College library through courtesy of Dr. Clifford M. Drury who discovered the original manuscript.)

"TOWNSEND, JOHN KIRK"

1837. Description of twelve new species of birds, chiefly from the vicinity of the Columbia River. *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 7 (2): 187-193. (Actually written by Nuttall and Audubon, with a partial list of the other species of Townsend's first shipment appended by the ornithological committee of the Academy.)

TOWNSEND, JOHN KIRK

1839. Narrative of a journey across the Rocky Mountains, to the Columbia River . . . with a scientific appendix. (Philadelphia.)
- 1839b. List of the birds inhabiting the region of the Rocky Mountains, the Territory of the Oregon, and the North West Coast of America. *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 8 (2): 151-158.

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ADDITIONS TO THE PUERTO RICAN AVIFAUNA WITH NOTES ON LITTLE-KNOWN SPECIES

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Dichromanassa rufescens rufescens (Gmelin), REDDISH EGRET.—One male and one female were collected at Cartagena Lagoon, P. R., on August 24, 1943 (Ramos). These two specimens, now deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, were obtained by Sr. Ciprián Fantauzzi when he saw the birds feeding close to shore in the mud flats of the lagoon. He states that they were the only ones observed in that vicinity. This constitutes the first record of the occurrence of the Reddish Egret in Puerto Rico. Both specimens are in the dark phase. Wetmore and Swales (1931: 78) state that the species is apparently a rare resident in Haiti and the Dominican Republic; Bond (1936: 22) did not include it from Puerto Rico. Danforth (1936) never found this rare bird on the island.

Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus (Linnaeus), GLOSSY IBIS.—One male, testes rather large, Anegado Lagoon, P. R., January 9, 1941 (Biaggi). Later, on September 26, 1943, five birds were seen at Cartagena Lagoon by Prof. J. A. Ramos. Since December, 1935, when the first record of the species for Puerto Rico was secured (Barnés, 1936: 351),

the writer has found the Glossy Ibis well distributed and moderately abundant in the fresh-water bodies of the southwestern corner of the country, for a period of years. On most occasions these birds were seen associated in small flocks feeding in the mud flats along the shores of the lagoon and shallow marshes. Since 1940 we have noticed that the species was decreasing in numbers, as only few individuals have been observed during field trips to this particular section of the island. I understand that this ibis has been looked for as a game bird by local hunters who have killed many, which will eventually mean the extinction of the species in Puerto Rico. These records cited may probably be the last to be made of the occurrence of this bird in Puerto Rico.

Phoenicopterus ruber Linnaeus, FLAMINGO.—A head in perfect condition was presented to Prof. J. A. Ramos of the College of Agriculture at Mayaguez, by Mr. Antonio Mellado of Vieques Island who killed the bird at Salinas de Vieques, at the extreme eastern end of that island, on November 24, 1940. He said that this flamingo was in a flock consisting of seven birds in adult plumage.

As far as I am aware this is the first positive record of the flamingo in Vieques since Gundlach's records in 1874.

There have been consistent reports of flamingoes in Puerto Rico during the past years by several local hunters who claim to have observed them in different localities along the southern coast of the island, particularly in the vicinity of La Parguera, Lajas, and in the mud flats close to Boquerón. I have been exerting all my efforts trying to locate a flock of these magnificent birds but without any success. Since the days of Gundlach who claimed to have secured some (Wetmore, 1927: 306) there seems to be no mention of specimens. Bond (1936: 37) included Puerto Rico in the geographical range of the flamingo. Danforth (1935: 33) also included this species from the island but based only on the statements of Gundlach and without any recent record of its occurrence.

Cygnus columbianus (Ord), WHISTLING SWAN.—On December 21, 1944, while I was collecting in the vicinity of Guánica Lagoon, I heard from a game warden news that a large, white bird which looked like a goose had been killed by a local hunter and sportsman, Sr. Rafael Rivera Esbrí of Ponce, P. R. I took advantage of the first opportunity to travel to Ponce and see the bird of which the skin had been preserved. Mr. Rivera had skinned the bird and preserved the whole skin nailed to a wooden wall in his back yard. I was astonished at the sight of the large skin which I recognized as a swan. It was almost destroyed by Dermestid beetles, but Mr. Rivera presented to me the head which I kept to provide permanent evidence.

Mr. Rivera informed me that while on a hunting trip to Guánica Lagoon on December 16, 1944, he was behind a small blind shooting ducks and gallinules when suddenly he heard a peculiar whistle coming from a spot concealed by a dense association of "eneas" (*Typha angustifolia*). Looking more carefully, he spied a large, white bird which looked like a large goose, swimming in a small, open pond. He shot at it at once but missed the bird, which took to the wing hesitantly with heavy movements of its large wings. When the bird flew over the "eneas" he brought it down with a second shot. When he went to pick it up from where it fell he was greatly astonished at the sight of such a large, magnificent bird.

On October 30, 1945, I wrote to Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln about this swan, as I wondered if it might have been brought alive and kept in captivity by someone living close to Guánica Lagoon. My investigation failed to disclose any evidence to warrant such a supposition. Mr. Lincoln's reply was: "Puerto Rico is certainly far out of the normal range of this bird and the possibilities that it was brought in as a captive bird cannot be disregarded. On the other hand you are in a position to investigate this possibility, and your efforts have failed to disclose any evidence to warrant such a supposition. I feel that we are fully justified in concluding that the occurrence is a natural one."

This constitutes the first authentic record of the occurrence of the Whistling Swan in the West Indies.

Dendrocygna autumnalis discolor Scater and Salvin, GRAY-BREASTED TREE DUCK.—On December 27, 1943, I received a partially mounted specimen of the Gray-breasted Tree Duck which had been killed at Anegado Lagoon, on December 17, 1943, by a local hunter of Ponce—Lcdo. Carlos E. Colón. As far as I am aware this constitutes the second positive record of this rare species in Puerto Rico. Wetmore (1927: 307) did not secure specimens during his ornithological survey. Bond (1936: 38) included Puerto Rico in the geographical range of this species. Danforth (1936: 35) states that it is a resident species breeding in the thick aquatic vegetation of Cartagena Lagoon. He obtained a female specimen collected at Añasco by a hunter on October 16, 1937 (Auk, 55: 668, 1938).

This constitutes the second positive record of the occurrence of the Gray-breasted Tree Duck in Puerto Rico, where, according to my observations, it is extremely rare.

Anas acuta tzitzihua Vieillot, PINTAIL.—One male, testes rather large, Anegado Lagoon, February 8, 1939 (Ramos); one female, ovaries small, Anegado Lagoon, December 17, 1939; one male, one female, Loiza, January 21, 1940 (Ramos); one male, one female, Añasco, February 1, 1941. These specimens, now on deposit at the Museum of Zoology of

the College of Agriculture at Mayaguez, were collected by Prof. J. A. Ramos and his associate in the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. They appear to present the first records of the presence of the Pintail in Puerto Rico. Previous records seem to be conflicting as they are based only on sight observations since the days of Gundlach. Danforth (1925: 37) observed the Pintail on several occasions at Cartagena Lagoon but he never collected specimens. Bond (1936: 51) included Puerto Rico in the geographical range of the Pintail, probably following Danforth's sight records.

Anas carolinensis Gmelin, GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—On January 8, 1945, I saw four skins of the Green-winged Teal at the house of Mr. Rafael Rivera Esbrí in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He killed all four birds in Guánica Lagoon on December 16, 1944, according to his testimony. This species has not yet been reported from Puerto Rico. Wetmore (1927: 306) did not mention it from Puerto Rico. Bond (1936: 52) stated that it is a rare winter migrant in the West Indies and did not include Puerto Rico in its winter range. Danforth (1925: 39) never saw it in this country.

Erismatura dominica (Linnaeus), MASKED DUCK.—The following specimens are in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, Mayaguez, P. R.: One female, ovaries small, Guánica Lagoon, February 12, 1943; one male, testes rather large, Anegado Lagoon, January 30, 1944; one male, testes enlarged, Añasco, October 21, 1943 (Ramos); one female, ovaries rather large, Anegado Lagoon, January 30, 1944 (Biaggi); one male, testes rather large, Guánica Lagoon, January 27, 1946 (Ramos).

Mr. Luis Santos from Añasco, P. R., possesses a mounted female specimen which was collected at La Cippiana, a small fresh-water swamp close to Central Igualdad in Mayaguez, in November, 1941.

The Masked Duck has been considered exceedingly rare in Puerto Rico and very few skins of this species have been collected here. Neither Wetmore (1927) nor Danforth (1925) succeeded in obtaining specimens during their ornithological surveys in Puerto Rico. Wetmore states, "formerly of rare occurrence in Puerto Rico; now perhaps extinct." Gundlach, according to Wetmore, recorded skins in the collections of Hjalmarson, Blanco and Stahl, taken in Arecibo and San Juan. Danforth (1936: 42) states that many years ago it was found in the island, but for many years there is no local record of the species.

Probably at a recent date, the Masked Duck may have invaded Puerto Rico from some of the neighboring islands, particularly from the Dominican Republic where it seems to be found in considerable numbers, although Wetmore and Swales (*Birds of Haiti and the*

Dominican Republic: 107, 1931) say that in the Dominican Republic it is apparently rare.

Fulica americana americana Gmelin, AMERICAN COOT.—The following specimens deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico: One female, ovaries slightly enlarged, Anegado Lagoon, November 3, 1939 (Ramos); one male, testes small, Cartagena Lagoon, January 13, 1941 (Ramos); one male, one female, Guánica Lagoon, February 12, 1943.

Accounts of the occurrence of the American Coot in Puerto Rico have been based mainly on sight records since the days of Gundlach and Stahl. No authentic records have been obtained since the above-mentioned specimens were collected by Prof. José A. Ramos and his associates in the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. For many years the Puerto Rican Coot (*Fulica caribaea*), according to Wetmore, was listed as the present species, being confused erroneously with the American Coot because of the almost identical appearance of both birds, even at short distances. Danforth (1936) did not include the American Coot in his list of the birds of the island. Bond (1936: 94) did not include Puerto Rico in the winter range of this species. These records, therefore, stand as the first positive evidence of the occurrence of the American Coot in Puerto Rico.

Zenaidura macroura macroura (Linnaeus), CUBAN MOURNING DOVE.—The only record of the Cuban Mourning Dove in Puerto Rico (Barnés, 1936: 351) is of a single specimen collected at Salinas de Guánica on July 16, 1935, and included in Danforth's work (1936). During recent years since the discovery of this dove on the island, I have found it to be fairly abundant in the dry, cactus-covered area in the vicinity of Faro de Cabo Rojo, where local hunters bag them in fairly large numbers during the open season for doves. Prof. J. A. Ramos and his associates in the College of Agriculture, corroborate this statement.

The following specimens are on deposit in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture: One adult male, collected at Faro de Cabo Rojo, May 11, 1941; two immature (non-sexed) collected on July 29, 1942 (no locality). It is our belief that this dove is getting a good foothold in this particular section of the island, becoming well established on the more arid regions of the southwestern littoral.

Oreopeleia montana montana (Linnaeus), RUDDY QUAIL DOVE.—It is of interest to report a perfect albino example of the Ruddy Quail Dove taken by Prof. Ramos at Las Marías on August 21, 1941. The specimen is on deposit in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, Mayaguez.

Asio domingensis portoricensis (Ridgway), PUERTO RICAN SHORT-EARED OWL.—The Puerto Rican Short-eared Owl is a rare bird on the island and accidentally encountered in the more swampy areas of the southwestern corner, where it feeds and breeds among the thick, low vegetation of swamps and lagoons. It is a bird of nocturnal habits—with which very few people are acquainted on the island—only those living close to its feeding and breeding grounds. On July 14, 1935, I collected two specimens, male and female, at a small, swampy area in the vicinity of Añasco. I presented these birds to the American Museum of Natural History. Since this particular occasion I have not seen this owl during my field trips to different sections of the island where it is supposed to be found.

Recently, when looking over the collections of the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture at Mayaguez, I noticed two specimens of this owl, an adult female, obtained in the southern shore of Anegado Lagoon, on August 8, 1942, and one male collected at the same locality on August 11, 1942.

Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea Ridgway, YELLOW PALM WARBLER.—Prof. José A. Ramos informed me that on several occasions during the last days of September and the first days of October, 1943, he saw the arrival of this warbler on the College Campus. He clearly detected the deep golden yellow underparts which form one of the outstanding distinguishing characters of *hypochrysea*. As this would constitute the first record of the Yellow Palm Warbler in Puerto Rico, I include it in the list of hypothetical birds until specimens can be collected.

Dendroica tigrina (Gmelin), CAPE MAY WARBLER.—Danforth (Los Pájaros de Puerto Rico: 142, 1936) states that the Cape May Warbler is very rare on migration in Puerto Rico; he observed it on only six occasions in twelve years. However, we found it to be one of the most common migrants in the higher mountains that are well covered with dense, luxuriant vegetation. It was recorded as one of the most abundant species during the winter seasons of 1941, 1942, and 1943, in the eastern section of the mountains of Maricao. In the Dominican Republic (Wetmore and Swales 1931: 373) it is a very common winter migrant.

Helmitheros vermivorus (Gmelin), WORM-EATING WARBLER.—I was informed by Prof. Ramos and some of his associates in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, that they saw one individual at the College grounds on October 15, 1943—the day after a small hurricane had passed across the western end of the island. He states that he is absolutely positive about his determination but I have included it in the hypothetical list until specimens can be collected. Bond

(Birds of the West Indies: 329) included the West Indies as winter range, but did not specifically mention Puerto Rico.

Wilsonia citrina (Boddaert), HOODED WARBLER.—An adult male was collected at Barrio Miradero, Mayaguez, on November 11, 1942 (Ramos). The specimen is on deposit in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture, Mayaguez. This constitutes the first authentic record of the occurrence of the Hooded Warbler in Puerto Rico. Bond (1936: 347) states this to be "rare on migration in the West Indies and only recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, from Cayo Lobos."

Icterus icterus ridgwayi (Hartert), TROUPIAL.—The Troupial, which was known to be a common bird in Puerto Rico many years ago, according to Gundlach, was supposed to be extinct until 1935 when specimens were obtained by Danforth and Barnés in the vicinity of Guánica and La Parguera, to which particular area the bird seems to be restricted. Since then Prof. Ramos and his associates have found the species to be increasing and extending its local range. At present it is moderately common from Lajas to Ensenada, whence they have records. I found it well established and tolerably common in the vicinity of Boquerón and Puerto Real, where it is frequently found in the mangrove growth along the coast.

Specimens in the Museum of Zoology of the College of Agriculture are: One male, Experiment Station grounds, May 2, 1941; one male, Ensenada, August 1, 1941 (Ramos).

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