

# Twenty-fourth in the Fuertes print series

[The original painting by Louis Agassiz Fuertes was reproduced in *Bird-Lore*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 6, November-December, 1926. The text accompanying the plate was written by Frank M. Chapman and was published in the same issue of *Bird-Lore*. The text is here reprinted with taxonomic and distributional updating. The scientific names and ranges have been taken from the A.O.U. Check-list, 6th Edition, 1983.]

## Notes on the Plumage of North American Birds

Frank M. Chapman

**Poor-will** [now **Common Poorwill**] (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*, Figs. 1 and 2).—The sexes of the Poor-will are nearly alike, but the white tail-tips are usually broader in the male. The newly hatched chick is thinly covered with pale creamy down which is quickly forced outward by the juvenal plumage. Above this is cream-buff finely marked with black; below, whitish narrowly barred with black. The wings and tail are like those of the adult. At the post-juvenal molt the body plumage is replaced by that of maturity.

The differences between the Poor-will [now **Common Poorwill**] (*P. n. nuttallii*, Fig. 2) and the Dusky Poor-will (*P. n. californicus*, Fig. 1) are well shown by Mr. Fuertes' plate.

The breeding distribution of this species extends from southern interior British Columbia, Montana, southeastern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan, southwestern South Dakota and Nebraska, south through eastern Washington, central and eastern Oregon and California to southern Baja California, Jalisco, Durango, San Luis Potosi and Coahuila, and east to eastern Kansas, northwestern Oklahoma and central Texas.

The wintering range of this species occupies the southern parts of the breeding range in California and Arizona, where the bird is sometimes found in a torpid condition, and south to the limits of the breeding range in Mexico.

**Merrill's Parauque** [now **Common Pauraque**] (*Nyctidromus albicollis merrilli*, Fig. 3) [now *Nyctidromus albicollis*].—The Parauque (I do not know the origin of this name. Possibly it is an inaccurate rendering of the Spanish words *para qué*, when it should be pronounced *parakáy* not "parauke."), as it is called in the A.O.U. 'Check-List', is, with the exception of certain Nighthawks, the commonest Goatsucker in tropical America. It reaches its northern limit, as well as its greatest size, in southern Texas where the form known as Merrill's Parauque (or Paraqué) is found. The adult female resembles the male but has the white wing-bar of that sex buffy and less developed, the white in the tail restricted to the tip of the second, and often also third pair of feathers, while the outer feather is irregularly barred instead of being slightly mottled.

At birth the young are covered with buffy down. This is followed by a plumage resembling that of the adult but the markings are blurred; less distinct. The crown and often back, are more or less spotted with black, the nape is barred and there is little or no white on the throat. The wings and tail exhibit, in the main, the characteristics of those of the adult but in the male the bar on the primaries is often tinted with rusty and the outer tail-feathers are barred as in the female.

Today [1984] the bird ranges from Sinaloa, southern Texas, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas south along both slopes of Middle America, and in South America from Colombia, Venezuela and the Guianas south, west of the Andes to northwestern Peru and east of the Andes to eastern Peru, Bolivia, northern Argentina and southern Brazil.