



LXXII. A synopsis of the birds discovered in Mexico by W. Bullock, F.L.S. and H.S., and Mr. William Bullock, jun.

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relatively to the under surface of the level *, but have also the effect of disturbing for some time the adjusting screws, and probably other parts of the mounting. On measuring by an adjusted level a number of planes or lines differing in inclination, the half-difference of the space passed over by the bubble should always be zero, or the instrument cannot be considered as perfect.

Leeds, March 5, 1827.

ERRATUM.—Page 260; for 200,000, read 206265; (the number by which the length of a division on the scale of a level answering to 1" must be multiplied to obtain the length of the radius of its curvature).

LXXII. *A Synopsis of the Birds discovered in Mexico by W. Bullock, F.L.S. and H.S., and Mr. William Bullock, jun. By WILLIAM SWAINSON, Esq. F.R.S. F.L.S. &c.*†

THE intercourse which recent political events have opened between Mexico and Great Britain, promises to be no less interesting to zoological science, than important to the commercial prosperity of both nations. Mr. Bullock was among the first of our countrymen, whose ardent curiosity led him to visit those distant shores; and the scientific treasures with which he returned, bear ample testimony to that zeal and indefatigable industry which has ever marked his pursuits. The exhibition of these objects, together with the valuable models and relics of Mexican antiquity, which this enterprising traveller procured during the short space of his sojourn, attracted the public attention for two years. That such a collection, invaluable to the historian as throwing a new light upon the ancient state of one of the most extraordinary nations of antiquity, should have been suffered, in these days, to have been dispersed by the hammer of the auctioneer, will excite the deep regret of every friend to knowledge. They may now, indeed, serve as objects of mere curiosity, but those advantages which the historian and the antiquary might have derived from their study and investigation, as a whole, are for ever lost.

The zoological subjects, possessed by no museum in Europe, shared the same fate, but not before Mr. Bullock had placed

* When the temperature increases, the vertex removes to a point of the tube nearer the thicker end. In some levels now in my possession the variation is 1" for every 2 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer.

† Communicated by the Author.

the whole in my hands, for the publicly avowed purpose of recording this portion of his discoveries. In the mean time his son, Mr. William Bullock, remained in Mexico; and, although occupied in more pressing avocations, continued to devote his leisure to the acquisition of its productions. His attention has hitherto been principally directed to the department of ornithology, in which he possesses considerable information. Every new remittance of specimens that he has since forwarded to this country, has tended to show how little is known of Mexican zoology. This, however, has been attended with some disadvantage to the task I had undertaken, inasmuch as it has delayed the publication of those descriptions which were made in the first instance.

That no further delay may take place, in securing the honour of these discoveries to Mr. Bullock and his son, I have drawn up, in this paper, a short synopsis of those birds which have reached me up to this time; indulging the hope of giving a more detailed account hereafter of the zoology of Mexico, accompanied by coloured figures.

It may readily be supposed, by those naturalists who have attended to the geographic distribution of animals, that in a country so new to science, many interesting objects would occur. The peculiar situation of Mexico, placed between the two great divisions of the American continent, and concentrating within itself every variety of climate, renders its zoology uncommonly interesting. The materials I have yet received are too scanty to allow of any very particular conclusions being drawn from them, so far as regards general views. I shall, therefore, merely observe in this place, that many of the ornithological groups of North America, occur also on the table land of Mexico, but that those of South America generally predominate. In addition to these are some few forms peculiar to the country itself, and one (*Cinclus*) which occurs in Europe, but in no other part of America.

The generic definitions will, I hope, shortly appear in another Journal, to which they have been sent, with the intention of preceding the publication of this paper, ever since last November. By this unfortunate delay, I am reduced to the unpleasant necessity of referring to a book not yet published, for what the reader should have the immediate power of consulting.

That this synopsis may be more generally useful to my English ornithological friends in Mexico, many of whom are miners, I have written the whole in our native language. It only remains for me to assure them, how much they have it in their power to benefit science, and to illustrate the natural history

history of that interesting country they have chosen as a residence, by devoting a portion of their leisure to this subject; and by giving me that assistance in investigating the productions of Mexico, which I can only hope to receive through their kindness.

February 1827.

ORDER. INSESSORES. Vig.

FAMILY. FALCONIDÆ.

1. *Harpia imperialis*. Cuv. Pl. Col. 14.

A living specimen of this noble bird was in the possession of Count Regla, from which a spirited drawing was made by Mr. W. Bullock junior. It differs in some respects from the figure above quoted, which exhibits some indication of being taken from a young bird.

2. *Aquila*. A doubtful species, in immature plumage.

3. *Polyborus Braziliensis*. Ray. Vieil. Gal. des Ois. Pl. 7.

This appears to be a common bird in Mexico.

4. *Circus rutilans*. Tem. Pl. Col. 25.

A young bird, but identified with the *Falco rutilans* of M. Temminck by himself.

FAM. HIRUNDINIDÆ.

5. *Hirundo melanogaster*.

Crown, back, scapulars, and spot on the throat glossy blue-black: front, throat, and sides of the head rufous: rump ferruginous: tail nearly even.

Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$: wings $4\frac{1}{2}$: tail $2\frac{2}{5}$.

Inhabits the Table land of Mexico. It has been since sent from Real del Monte.

Breast dusky; body, vent and under tail covers white; collar round the neck gray; wings and tail brown; the first quill rather longer than the second.

6. *Hirundo thalassinus*.

Above changeable green with lilac reflections; beneath snowy white; wings and tail violet brown; tail slightly forked.

Table land; Real del Monte, by Mr. Morgan.

Ears, sides of the head, and all the under parts pure white; wings long, the first quill longest.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$; wings, $4\frac{2}{5}$; tail, $2\frac{2}{5}$, depth of the fork $\frac{1}{5}$.

FAM. HALCYONIDÆ.

7. *Alcedo Americana*. Lath. Pl. Entl. 591.

Common on the Table land.

FAM. MUSCICAPIDÆ.

8. *Platyrhynchus pusillus*.

Olive

Olive brown, beneath yellowish-white; wings with two pale bands; tail moderate, even; bill small; head crested.

Maritime parts of Mexico.

There are four or five small American Flycatchers, perfectly resembling this in the colour of their plumage, but all differing very materially in the size and form of their bills. This, in the present bird, is rather broad, flat, and not abruptly hooked: when viewed in a vertical direction the margins appear rather dilated, or curved outwards; a character so conspicuous in the typical *Platyrhynchi*, that we may take it as a sufficient reason for bringing this bird within the confines of the same group.

The yellowish band at the base of the lesser quills is obsolete; the margins of the greater are not pale, neither is the outer feather of the tail margined with yellow.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill, $\frac{1}{10}$; wings, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$.

G. TYRANNULA. *Swains. in Zool. Journ. No. 10.*

9. *Tyrannula affinis.*

Olive, beneath pale fulvous; wing covers and quills with pale margins; base of the lesser quills with a blackish band; bill small; under mandible yellow; tail divaricated.

Maritime parts of Mexico.

10. *Tyrannula obscura.*

Muscicapa querulæ? Vieil. Ois. de l'Am. pl. 39.

Above olive gray, beneath yellowish-white; wings short, brown, with two whitish bands; tail brown, even, the outer feather with a pale yellow margin.

Mexico. Rather larger than the last.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill, nearly $\frac{1}{10}$; wings, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{10}$.

11. *Tyrannula barbirostris.*

Brown, beneath pale yellow; crown blackish; chin and throat white; bill large, strongly bearded; tail even.

Mexico.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$; bill, $\frac{1}{10}$; wings, 3; tail, 3; tarsi, $\frac{1}{10}$.

12. *Tyrannula nigricans.*

Blackish brown, head and throat darker; vent, under tail coverts, and margin of the exterior tail feather, white.

Table land of Mexico: not uncommon.

Total length, 7: bill, $\frac{1}{10}$; wings, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{10}$.

13. *Tyrannula coronata.*

Muscicapa coronata. Gm. The most beautiful, and seemingly one of the most common species found in Mexico.

14. *Tyrannula cayenensis.*

Muscicapa Cayenensis. Gm. Maritime parts of Mexico.

15. *Tyrannula pallida.*

Pale

368 Mr. Swainson's *Synopsis of the Birds of Mexico.*

Pale gray, beneath ferruginous; throat hoary; tail black.
Table land of Mexico.

Total length, 7: bill, $\frac{7}{16}$; wings, 4; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tarsi, $\frac{7}{16}$.

16. *Tyrannula musica.*

Cinereous-brown, beneath dirty yellow; tail forked; wings lengthened, brown; bill strongly hooked.

Total length, $7\frac{1}{2}$: wings, $4\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$.

This bird may be placed either with the *Tyrannina*, or at the utmost limits of this group.

G. SETOPHAGA. Sw. in *Zool. Journ.* No. 10.

17. *Setophaga ruticilla.*

Muscicapa ruticilla, Lin. *mas.* *M. flavicaudæ*. Gm. *fem.*

Maritime parts.

18. *Setophaga miniata.*

Cinereous, breast and body beneath vermilion; tail black, the lateral tail feathers partly white.

Table land: woods of Valadolid; rare, size of the last.

19. *Setophaga rubra.*

Entirely red, ear feathers of a silky whiteness.

Inhabits the same woods, and is of the same size as the last.

FAM. LANIADÆ.

20. *Lanius Carolinensis.* Wilson iii. pl. 22. f. 5.

Table land: very common.

21. *Tyrannus intrepidus.* Vieil. Wilson ii. pl. 13. f. 1.

22. *Tyrannus griseus.* Vieil. Ois. de l'Am. pl. 46.

23. *Tyrannus sulphuratus.* Vieil. Swainson.

Maritime parts: with the two last.

24. *Tyrannus crassirostris.* Sw.

Maritime and table lands.

25. *Tyrannus vociferans.* Sw.

G. PTILIOGONYS. Swains. in *Zool. Journ.* No. 10.

26. *Ptiliogonys cinereus.*

Cinereous; chin and middle of the lateral tail feathers white; under tail covers yellow; wings and tail shining black.

Table land of Mexico. Real del Monte.

FAM. MERULIDÆ.

27. *Cinclus Mexicanus.*

Cinereous gray, head and chin brown.

Size of the European species.

28. *Merula migratoria.* *Turdus migratorius* auct. Wilson i. pl. 2.

29. *Merula*

29. *Merula flavirostris*.
Gray; back and wings tinged with ferruginous; beneath white; breast and flanks ferruginous; chin spotted; bill yellow.
Total length, $9\frac{1}{2}$; bill, 1; wings, 5; tail, $4\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{2}{3}$.
30. *Merula tristis*.
Olive brown, beneath whitish; chin with black spots; under wing covers pale ferruginous; bill and legs brown.
Total length, 9: bill, 1; wings, 5; tail, 4; tarsi, $1\frac{2}{3}$.
31. *Merula silens*.
Hermit thrush. Wilson v. pl. 43. f. 2.
Olivaceous gray, beneath white; chin, throat and breast with black spots; tail tinged with ferruginous.
This and the four preceding birds, are from Temascaltepec, on the Table land.
Total length, 7: bill, $\frac{3}{4}$; wings, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail, 3; tarsi, 1.
G. ORPHEUS. Swains. in *Zool. Journ.* No. 10.
32. *Orpheus polyglottos*. *Turdus polyglottos*. Wilson ii. pl. 10. f. 1.
Table land. Real del Monte.
33. *Orpheus curvirostris*.
Gray, beneath whitish; throat and breast spotted; vent pale fulvous; bill long, curved.
Table land.
Total length, $10\frac{1}{2}$; bill, $1\frac{1}{2}$; wings, $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail, 5; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$.
34. *Orpheus cærulescens*.
Bluish, crown and throat paler, ears and sides of the head black.
Table land. The notes of this species are very sweet.
Total length, $10\frac{3}{4}$; bill, $1\frac{2}{3}$; wings, $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $5\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{3}$.
G. SEIURUS. Swains. in *Zool. Journ.* No. 10.
35. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Golden-crowned Thrush. Wilson ii. pl. 14. f. 2.
Table land?
36. *Seiurus tenuirostris*.
Above olive brown, beneath pale yellow with triangular blackish spots; stripe above the eye pale.
Table land? Size of the last.
G. SIALIA. Sw. in *Zool. Journal.* No. 10.
37. *Sialia azurea*? *Sylvia Sialis*? Wilson i. pl. 3. f. 3.
Common on the Table land at Real del Monte and other places.
I have some doubts whether this is not a distinct species: my specimen is of a young bird.

[To be continued.]