

rate Australia, are rather above than below the average brilliancy of their tropical allies.

We must remember that the tropical fauna almost always extends *beyond* the geographical tropic, and thus comprehends the largest part of the earth habitable all the year by birds. Moreover it is one mass, while the temperate regions are divided; and most important of all, owing to the perennial presence of fruits and insects, a far greater number and variety of birds can exist there than in the colder parts of the earth. It follows, therefore, that if the proportion of bright- to obscure-coloured birds is the same everywhere, yet the tropics must produce the largest actual number, and it has yet to be shown that this proportion is greater in the tropics. Such extensive tropical families as the *Trochilidæ*, *Trogonidæ*, *Cotingidæ*, and *Tanagridæ*, consisting almost entirely of gay-coloured birds, will immediately occur to every one; but on the other side may be set the *Todidæ*, Bp., *Thamnophilidæ*, *Anabatidæ*, *Dendrocolaptidæ*, *Capitonidæ*, and others equally tropical and as remarkable for their generally obscure coloration.

Here the amount of colour would almost seem to be in inverse proportion to the amount of solar light; for while no island has more clear sky and bright sunshine than Timor, its birds are far less brilliant than those which dwell amid the gloomy forests and ever-cloudy sky of the Moluccas and New Guinea.

On the whole, therefore, I cannot but believe that a careful investigation of the facts will show that there exists no immediate connexion between tropical heat and light and brilliancy of colour in any department of nature; and I am sure that on no subject does a greater amount of misconception prevail than on the relative beauty of nature and display of colour in temperate and tropical regions.

Delli, Timor, April 20th, 1861.

XXXIX.—*A List of Species to be added to the Ornithology of Central America.* By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.Z.S.

THE following list of birds is derived partly from a collection brought over by Mr. Robert Owen from Vera Paz, partly from

a revision of my own collections (which has led to the discovery of several species accidentally omitted in former lists), and partly from other authentic sources.

Mr. Owen's collection was formed mainly by Cipriano Prado, who went as far as Chisec on the Rio de la Passion, and Filipe Sierra, who collected at Teleman and Panzos on the Rio Polochic. The rest were procured by Mr. Owen himself in the vicinity of Coban and San Gerónimo. Amongst the birds collected by Cipriano Prado, not mentioned in this list, occur two specimens of a *Coccothraustes*, marked by him male and female, and which he shot together (so he told Mr. Owen) near Coban. These agree, on comparison, the male with *C. abeillii*, and the female with *C. maculipennis*, Sclater; and I cannot help thinking that these two supposed species are actually the male and female of one, which should be called by Lesson's name, *C. abeillii*. One female, marked so from dissection, shot by myself near Dueñas, and agreeing with Mr. Sclater's type of the supposed male *C. maculipennis*, confirms me in this idea. Another interesting bird is a *Sclerurus* (which I have referred to *S. guatemalensis*, Hartl.), showing that two species of the limited genus *Sclerurus* occur in Guatemala. There is also a female of a species of *Myrmotherula* which I have been unable to determine, no male specimen having been sent. This is the most northern locality for any species of this genus hitherto recorded.

PASSERES.

1. CYPHORHINUS PHILOMELA, Salvin, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 201.

Several specimens. I have no doubt that this is the bird I heard in the mountains and described (*Ibis*, 1861, p. 143) as having great powers of song. In the dense forests it is a difficult bird to see, but its notes may very frequently be heard.

2. CERTHIOLA MEXICANA, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 286.

Apparently very common in Central Vera Paz. I have received many specimens from Chisec and other localities in the same region, all agreeing very closely with one another.

3. GUIRACA CÆRULEA (Linn.); Baird, B. Am. p. 499.

Though not of very common occurrence, this species is pretty

generally distributed throughout Vera Paz. I met with it myself in the plain of Salamá, and all the collections from the warmer districts to the northward of Coban contained examples. It has been accidentally omitted from the previous lists.

4. *EMBERNAGRA CHLORONOTA*, Salvin, P.Z.S. 1861, p. 202.
Chisec. Several specimens.

5. *CASSIDIX ORYZIVORA* (Gm.); Cab. Mus. Hein. p. 194;
Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 57.

Included in Mr. Moore's list of the birds collected by Leyland in Honduras.

6. *CYANOCITTA CRASSIROSTRIS*, Bp. Consp. p. 378; Pucheran, Rev. Zool. 1858, p. 198. *Pica beecheyi*, Eyd. et Gerv. Mag. de Zool. 1836, p. 26, pl. 72, et Voy. Favorite, pl. 20; Moore, P.Z.S. 1859, p. 57.

Guatemala (Morelet), Mus. Paris: Belize, Honduras (Leyland).

7. *PICOLAPTES LINEATICEPS*, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1850, p. 277;
Sclater, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 252.

The specimen mentioned as having been observed on the Pacific coast (Ibis, 1859, p. 117) belongs properly to this species, and not to *P. affinis*, as there stated. It is not improbable that *P. lineaticeps* is an inhabitant exclusively of the warm, and *P. affinis* of more elevated regions. All the specimens of these two species that I have collected lead to this conclusion.

8. *DENDROMANES HOMOCHROUS*, Sclater, P.Z.S. 1859, p. 382.

One specimen, with others of *D. anabatinus*, occurs in the collection from Chisec. Neither species of this singular form appears to be common either in Guatemala or Mexico.

9. *SITTASOMUS SYLVIOIDES*, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1849, p. 331, et 1850, p. 590.

Two specimens from Chisec.

10. *XENOPS MEXICANUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 289.

Apparently common throughout the "tierra caliente" of Vera Paz.

11. *FORMICARIUS MONILIGER*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 294.
Several specimens collected at Chisec.

There is also in the collection one skin of *Grallaria guatemalensis*, a bird which I have hitherto only known from specimens procured by Mr. Skinner. *G. guatemalensis* appears to be quite distinct from the Mexican *Grallaria* (which Mr. Sclater now calls *G. mexicana*), being considerably smaller in size and having the under parts more rufous.

12. *CONTOPUS BRACHYTARSUS*, Sclater, MS. *Empidonax brachytarsus*, Sclat. Ibis, 1859, p. 441.

Two specimens of this Tyrant were collected by Mr. Fraser at Escuintla.

13. *APHANTOCHROA ROBERTI*, Salvin, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 203.

This Humming-bird and *Campylopterus curvieri* of Gould ought, perhaps, to be placed in a separate subgenus, as being distinct from both *Aphantochroa* and *Campylopterus*.

14. *MOMOTUS CASTANEICEPS*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1854, p. 154; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 254.

Though Coban is given as the locality in which M. Delattre found this Mot-mot, I somewhat doubt its accuracy, as no specimen has ever come into my hands from that place. In the plain of Zacapa and in the adjacent country, the commonest species is one which answers best to *M. castaneiceps*, many specimens of which I have seen, but never obtained. M. Delattre collected in other parts of Guatemala besides Coban, and it is very possible that the true locality of this bird may have been wrongly given.

15. *CHRYSOTIS XANTHOLORA*, G. R. Gray, List of Psittacidae, p. 83.

The specimen in the British Museum is marked "Dyson, Honduras," and I therefore include it in this list. It differs from *C. albifrons*, its nearest ally, in having yellow lores and black ear-coverts. The dark edgings to the feathers of the back are also more strongly shown.

ACCIPITRES.

16. *HYPOTRIORCHIS DEIROLEUCUS* (Temm.). *Falco deiroleucus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 348.

Among some old skins belonging to Mr. Meany, of Guatemala,

I picked out a specimen of this Hobby, the finest, perhaps, of the genus. The skin is of an adult female and in good condition. Mr. Meany had received it from Vera Paz.

17. *ACCIPITER PILEATUS*, Max.

This bird having occurred in M. Sallé's collection from South Mexico, might naturally be expected to be found also in Guatemala. I have now two specimens from Vera Paz, both in the immature dress. They were shot by Juan Prado, who has certainly been most fortunate in obtaining rare birds of prey.

18. *ICTINIA MISSISSIPPIENSIS*, Wils.; Baird, Rep. p. 37; Cassin, Ibis, 1860, p. 103.

One specimen from Coban occurs in the last collection, but *I. plumbea* is by far the commonest species of *Ictinia* in Vera Paz. The present bird is clearly distinguishable from that species, the differences being rightly pointed out by Mr. Cassin (*l. c.*). I am not aware of any other specimen of this Hawk existing in this country except the one in the British Museum. It appears to be almost as rare in North American collections.

19. *SCOPS FLAMMEOLA*, Licht. in Mus. Berol.; Kaup, Trans. Zool. Soc. 1859, p. 226.

One specimen of this rare Owl was shot by Mr. Owen in the mountain of Santa Barbara, near San Gerónimo. M. Sallé's Mexican collections, I believe, contained but one example, which was placed in the late Prince Charles Bonaparte's private collection.

COLUMBÆ.

20. *CHLORÆNAS FLAVIROSTRIS*, Wagl. Isis, 1831, p. 410; Selater, P.Z.S. 1856, p. 309.

Volcan de Fuego. Collected by Mr. Fraser.

21. *LEPTOPTILA* — ?

Several specimens of a third species of this genus, which may possibly be the *Columba erythrothorax* of Temminck. It is certainly distinct from either *L. albifrons* or *L. rufaxilla*.

GALLINÆ.

22. *TINAMUS ROBUSTUS*, Selater, P.Z.S. 1860, p. 253.

I obtained two eggs of this species in Yzabal in 1859. They

are of a greenish blue, like those of *T. major* of Brazil. An egg of *T. meserythrus*, procured by Mr. Owen, is of a reddish chocolate-brown colour. A specimen of that of *T. sallæi*, in the British Museum, is a creamy white. Other eggs of species belonging to this peculiar family in my collection tend to show that even a specific character may very fairly be assumed from the different colours of the eggs, so decidedly are differences shown in the eggs of such *Tinami* as I have been able to determine satisfactorily.

23. *TINAMUS MESERYTHRUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 392.

A considerable series of this species shows a great constancy in its colouring. One specimen—no doubt a young one—has the chestnut-red of the breast much less strongly shown, and there is an indication of barred markings on the sides and wings. The egg is of a reddish chocolate-brown.

24. *TINAMUS SALLÆI*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xlii. p. 955 ; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 392.

Chisec.

25. *TINAMUS BOUCARDI*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 391.

In addition to these four species of Tinamou, Mr. Owen states that there is another belonging to the smaller section of this family. Of this fifth species I hope shortly to obtain specimens.

GRALLÆ.

26. *NUMENIUS BOREALIS*, Lath. ; Baird, Rep. p. 744.

A single specimen of this well-known North American bird was sent home last autumn by Mr. R. Owen. It was shot at San Gerónimo.

27. *ÆDICNEMUS BISTRIATUS*, Wagl. *Æ. vocifer*, L'Herm. Mag. de Zool. 1837, pl. 84 ; Owen, Ibis, 1861, p. 68.

Mr. Owen has given an account of the breeding habits of this bird in this Journal (*antea*, p. 68). I believe it occurs in most of the plains of moderate elevation, such as that of Salamá, and no doubt is the species observed by Mr. Taylor on the plain of Comayagua in Honduras (Ibis, 1860, p. 314). It is a bird easily tamed, and may frequently be seen in the "patios" or courtyards so characteristic of Spanish American houses.



J Jennens, lith

M & N. Hanhart, Imp

ZOSTEROPS POLIOGASTRA . .

28. NYCTICORAX VIOLACEUS, Linn.; Baird, Rep. p. 679; Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63.

Included in Mr. Moore's list of the birds collected by Leyland.

XL.—On a new African Species of the Genus Zosterops.

By TH. VON HEUGLIN*.

(Plate XIII.)

THE genus *Zosterops* (a very circumscribed and very distinct one, though not very rich in species) is found over nearly the whole of Africa, in Madagascar, Australia, some parts of Northern Asia, and in the Southern Indian Islands. I discovered a new species in the high mountainous districts of Abyssinia, easily to be distinguished by its very large eyes and eye-rings, and by its breast and upper abdomen being of a pure grey. In my "List of N.E. African Birds," printed in the 'Transactions of the Vienna Academy,' I have enumerated this new species under the name of *Z. euryophthalma*, but now I prefer changing this name into

ZOSTEROPS POLIOGASTRA. (Pl. XIII.)

Supra virescenti-flava; superciliis gutture et subcaudalibus sulphureis; pectore et epigastrio obsolete cinereis; abdomine medio pallidiore; remigibus et rectricibus fuliginosis, extus virescenti-flavo marginatis, illis intus basin versus albidis; subalaribus albis, flexuram alæ versus virescente tinctis; tectricibus caudæ superioribus fere totis flavis; macula nigra inter oculum et rictum; regione parotica viridi-nigricante; annulo periophthalmico nitide sericeo-albo; tibiis griseis, flavescente tinctis; rostro nigerrimo; pedibus plumbeis; iride brunnea.

Long. 4" 3"; rostr. a fr. 4"; al. 2" 5"; caud. 1" 9"; tars. 8".

The male is a little more brightly coloured than the female. The first primary is 2" shorter than the second, third, and fourth, which are the longest. This pretty species lives on the highlands of Abyssinia; I found it there in the month of February and March in wooded districts, on *Euphorbiæ* and olive-trees, at an elevation of 10–11,000 feet.

* Translated and edited by Dr. G. Hartlaub.