

31. *Iache latirostris* (Sw.).
- \*32. *Picus scalaris* Wagl.
- \*33. *Centurus uropygialis* Baird.
34. *Colaptes chrysoides* Malh.
35. *Geococcyx californianus* (Less.).
36. *Polyborus cheriway* (Jacq.).
37. *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi* (Aud.).
38. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (Gm.).
39. *Buteo borealis calurus* (Cass.).
40. *Cathartes aura* (Linn.).
41. *Catharista atrata* (Bartr.).
42. *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.).
43. *Melopelia leucoptera* (Linn.).
44. *Chamapelia passerina* (Linn.).
45. *Scardafella inca* (Less.).
46. *Lophortyx gambeli* Nutt.

The species observed only in April are Nos. 6, 11, 12, 14, 20, 31, and 39.

Thirty-five of the forty-six species are also represented on the opposite side of the Gulf, in Lower California, while five others are represented there by closely allied species or races, as follows:

GUAYMAS.	LOWER CALIFORNIA.
1. <i>Harporhynchus bendirei</i> .	1. <i>H. cinereus</i> Xantus.
2. <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i> .	2. <i>C. affinis</i> Xantus.
3. <i>Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus</i> .	3. <i>P. fuscus albigula</i> (Baird).
4. <i>Picus scalaris</i> .	4. <i>P. scalaris lucasanus</i> (Xant.).
5. <i>Lophortyx gambeli</i> .	5. <i>L. californicus</i> (Shaw).

The six species unrepresented, so far as known, in Lower California, are:

1. *Harporhynchus palmeri*.
2. *Vireo vicinior*.
3. *Quiscalus palustris*.
4. *Iache latirostris*.
5. *Catharista atrata*.
6. *Scardafella inca*.

**SECOND CATALOGUE OF A COLLECTION OF BIRDS MADE NEAR  
THE SOUTHERN EXTREMITY OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.\***

By **L. BELDING.**

(Edited by **R. Ridgway.**)

Some of the more prominent characteristics of Lower California, south of the parallel of 24° 30', are as follows:

The Gulf coast, including the islands of Espiritu Santo and Cerralvo, and the Pacific coast, from Cape St. Lucas to Todos Santos, is mount-

\* See these Proceedings, Vol. 5, pp. 532-550.

ainous, rocky, sandy, and very barren. The Victoria Mountains range from north to south in the center of the peninsula, parallel, in a general sense, to the Coast ranges, having their greatest height and breadth between Triunfo and Miraflores. The remaining portion of the tract under consideration consists principally of low table-lands or mesas and sandy arroyos.

There is a belt of low, mostly fertile, land 15 or 20 miles wide, extending from the Gulf at La Paz to the Pacific at and north of Todos Santos, so low, indeed, that if it should happen to sink about a hundred feet it would be submerged, and that portion of the peninsula lying south of it would become—what it has probably already been—an island.

Taking this into consideration, together with the influence the Victoria Mountains have had and are having in this direction, it is not difficult to account for a local fauna of which it may be said much remains to be learned.

I have observed the following species, with others on the Pacific coast, from Cape St. Lucas to a point 30 miles north of Todos Santos, namely: *Mimus polyglottus*, *Harporhynchus cinereus*, *Phainopepla nitens*, *Auriparus flaviceps*, *Campylorhynchus affinis*, *Pipilo fuscus albigula*, *Cardinalis virginianus igneus*, *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*, *Icterus cucullatus*, *Centurus uropygialis*, *Colaptes chrysoides*, and *Picus scalaris lucasanus*. These are a part of what I have termed the species of the cactus and mesquite thickets. The same species have been observed by me on the Gulf side as far north as 24° 30' or thereabouts. All of them are likely to occur much farther north on the Gulf side, being probably confined thereto by the desert, which covers nearly all the peninsula east of Magdalena Bay, and north to Comander and far south toward Todos Santos.

Other quite similar deserts northwest of Magdalena Bay must tend to restrict these birds to the Gulf coast, which is mountainous, and has more or less fresh water, whereas, on the Pacific coast, for a distance of four or five hundred miles, there is not a drop of water, as I believe, upon what I consider reliable information, and actual observation.

#### a. BIRDS OF THE MOUNTAINS.

Arriving at La Paz December 15, 1882, I remained in Southern Lower California until March 23, 1883, much of this time being spent in the saddle. Only a small number of specimens were secured, although among them were several new or undescribed species.

The most important localities visited were in the Victoria Mountains, which were probably never previously explored by any collector. I ascended these mountains by three different trails on as many different spurs. The trail leading to Laguna is the longest, highest, and possibly the worst; however, I suppose either of them would be considered impassable in any other country than Mexico. On this trail an altitude of about 5,000 feet was reached. From an altitude of about 3,500 feet and upward the flora was partly that of the temperate zone.

This region is well watered and well timbered with medium-sized oaks and pines, the latter constituting about a tenth of the forest, being distributed unevenly among the oaks. Bunch grass was everywhere abundant. On February 1, the date of our arrival here, a Blackberry (*Rubus*), a Black Currant (*Ribes*), the Madroña (*Arbutus menziesi*), a Monkey Flower (*Mimulus*), the Painted Cap (*Castilleja*), a fine Lupine, (*Lupinus*), and a few other plants, were in flower and thriving, although the tender shoots of some of the annuals had been nipped by frost.

An interesting *Nolena* reminded us we were still in the tropics, although we had left the cactus and mesquite thickets with their characteristic species far beneath us, or below an altitude of 1,500 feet.

Upon meeting the first pines, I discovered almost simultaneously the long sought Cape Robin (*Merula confinis* Baird), the beautiful new Snowbird (*Junco bairdi*), and other interesting species.

The purpose is not to give at this time an extended account of experiences here; but, instead, the following list is presented. It contains all the species known by me to occur in these mountains, although a change of season may change the avifauna, some species perhaps going north in spring, others from the surrounding low lands replacing them. Perhaps some species escaped my notice by being in the deep gorges so numerous in the Victoria Mountains.

1. *Hylocichla unalascae* (Gm.).

Common; possibly resident.

2. *Merula confinis* (Baird.)

Only about a dozen Cape Robins were seen, and these were all on the Laguna trail. About half were found singly, one as low as 2,500 feet above sea level.

Mr. Cipriano Fisher, an American, who had often hunted deer at Laguna, informed me that Robins were sometimes abundant there. This may be the case when the berries of the California Holly (*Heteromeles*), which grows abundantly in the neighborhood, are ripe.

The type specimen, shot by Xantus at Todos Santos in summer, may have been a straggler from the mountains. Possibly there was a mistake made in recording it, as I suspect was the case with the *Oreortyx picta plumifera* (see Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 5, p. 533), which is not at present a bird of Cape St. Lucas; and this leads me to remark that I consider the term "Cape species," when it covers all the birds from La Paz and south of it, an inappropriate one—inappropriate for the good reason that so few of the so-called Cape species really occur at Cape St. Lucas—its only special advantage as a collecting ground being its well-sheltered harbor, which affords good opportunities for shooting marine species.

3. *Polioptila cœrulea* (Linn.).

Common, and probably the only *Polioptila* seen; but it is not possible to be positive, as all the *Polioptila* of Southern Lower California look

much alike in the field, the black capped species being rarely met with in winter, or before March or April.

4. *Regulus calendula* (Linn.).

Moderately common; from 3,000 feet altitude upward.

5. *Lophophanes inornatus cinerascens* Ridgw. (See these Proceedings, p. 154.)

Common from 3,000 feet altitude upward; probably a constant resident. Nothing special noted concerning its habits.

[A second specimen, from the Victoria Mountains, February 22, agrees exactly with the type. Measurements: Wing, 2.80; tail, 2.40; culmen, .45; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .50. The sex not determined.—R. R.]

6. *Psaltriparus grindæ* Belding. (See these Proceedings, p. 155.)

Same remarks.

[Two additional specimens agree exactly with the type. Their measurements are as follows: No. 90069, ♂ ad., San Francisco Mountains, February 22, 1883: Wing, 1.85; tail, 2.10; culmen, .23; tarsus, .60; middle toe, .31. No. 90070 (sex not determined), Victoria Mountains, February 20, 1883: Wing, 1.90; tail, 2.15; culmen, .25; tarsus, .60; middle toe, .32.—R. R.]

7. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata* (Cass.)?

Less common than the preceding.

8. *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus* Ridgw.

Moderately common throughout all altitudes.

9. *Anthus ludovicianus* (Gm.).

A large flock seen at Laguna, supposed to be this species. The only suitable ground observed was a meadow, containing about a square mile.

10. *Helminthophila celata lutescens*, Ridgw.

Very common.

11. *Dendrœca auduboni* (Towns.).

Common.

12. *Dendrœca nigrescens* (Towns.).

Very common above 3,000 feet altitude; also of occasional occurrence in mountain cañons of about 1,000 feet altitude.

13. *Vireo huttoni stephensi* Brewster.

Common above 3,000 feet altitude; not observed below this.

14. *Pyranga ludoviciana* (Wils.).

Rare; also seen at La Paz.

15. *Astragalinus psaltria* (Say).

Only one flock observed.

16. *Spizella socialis arizonæ* Coes.

Rather rare; not seen below 3,000 feet altitude.

17. *Spizella atrigularis* (Caban.).

The only individual observed was shot and wounded, but it escaped in rocks just as I was about to grasp it.

Afterward, near Pescadero, I saw a small flock, and secured a specimen. It must be rare in Southern Lower California.

18. *Junco bairdi* Belding. (See these Proceedings, p. 155.)

This interesting bird was very common in the Victoria Mountains above 3,000 feet altitude. Nothing worthy of note in connection with its habits was noticed.

This species is so named in consideration of the valuable ornithological services of Prof. S. F. Baird, in field and office, not the least of such services being his original, full, and accurate descriptions of so many North American birds.

[Two specimens received since the original description of the species was published agree exactly with the types in coloration, and measure as follows: No. 90048 ♀ ad., Laguna, Feb. 1883: Wing, 2.75; tail, 2.60; culmen, .40; depth of bill at base, .23; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .55. No. 90047, ♀ ad., Victoria Mountains, Feb. 21, 1883: Wing, 2.75; tail, 2.65; culmen, .42; depth of bill at base, .23; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .55—R. R.]

19. *Peucaea ruficeps boucardi* (Sel.).

Common on grassy hillsides above 2,500 feet altitude; usually seen in pairs in February.

20. *Melospiza lincolni* (Aud.).

Less common than the preceding in similar localities.

21. *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx* (Baird).

Very common.

22. *Pipilo chlorurus* (Townsend).

Common.

23. *Icterus parisorum* Bonap.

Very rare. Three individuals were seen as high as 4,500 feet.

24. *Corvus corax carnivorus* (Bartr.).

Common.

25. *Aphelocoma californica* (Vig.).

Moderately common.

26. *Tyrannus vociferans* Swain.

Rare; seen only around the meadow at Laguna.

27. *Empidonax difficilis* Baird.

Rare.

28. *Calypte costæ* (Bourc.).

A humming bird, supposed to have been a female of this species, was observed, at about 4,000 feet altitude. Not observed at any other time above 2,000 feet. *C. costæ* thrives in barren, waterless tracts.

29. *Basilinna xantusi* (Lawr.).

Decidedly abundant in the highest mountains, much more so than in the low country, where it is usually found near fresh water.

30. *Picus scalaris lucasanus* (Xant.).

Rarely seen.

31. *Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis* Baird.

A specimen was obtained at Laguna, on February 1. Probably seen upon two other occasions.

32. *Melanerpes formicivorus angustifrons* Baird.

Very abundant in the higher mountains. Colonies are occasionally found in the oaks as low as 700 feet altitude.

33. *Colaptes chrysoides* (Malh.).

I was unable to get a specimen of the flicker in the mountains. Saw but two or three individuals. As these had golden wing and tail shafts, I presume the species was as above given.

34. Scops ———.

The tremulous notes of a screech-owl were heard at several of the camps. Also at Agua Caliente and Miraflores.

[This was, perhaps, *S. trichopsis* Wagl. The National Museum possesses two young specimens collected by Xantus at Cape St. Lucas, of a species allied to but apparently distinct from *S. asio*, but adults from this region are as yet unknown. Cf. Hist. N. Am. Birds, iii, p. 52.—R. R.]

35. *Bubo virginianus sabarcticus* (Hoy).

Horned owls—which were supposed to have been of this species—were frequently heard and occasionally seen.

[A wing, undoubtedly of this race, was among Mr. Belding's specimens.—R. R.]

36. *Micrathene whitneyi* (Cooper.)

This diminutive owl appeared to be less common here than in the cactus region; however, it was heard at several of our camps. I tried more than an hour, one night, to see one which I had brought near me, by imitating its cries; but I could not with the advantage of bright moonlight and the assistance of opera glasses see the little fellow, though he sat in a lone tree not 20 feet from me, and remained in this particular tree five or ten minutes. Neither myself nor Dr. H. Ten Kate, my esteemed companion of two subsequent ascents in the Victoria Mountains, was able to get an owl of any sort in all our wanderings here and elsewhere in Lower California. In a single instance I think I heard a *Glaucidium*, and again a noise I referred to some unknown animal, but the guide said it was a "Tapa Camino," or Whippoorwill. It may have been the notes of *Phalacroptilus nuttalli*, with which I am not acquainted. Have resided in California twenty-seven years, and do not think I have yet heard it.

37. *Tinnunculus sparverius* (Linn.).

Common.

38. *Buteo borealis calurus* (Cass.).

The Red Tailed Hawk, common in the low country, was quite as common in the mountains.

39. *Cathartes aura* (Linn.).

Very common and sociable.

40. *Columba fasciata* (Say.)

Abundant and breeding in February. Several nests were seen in oak trees, but not closely examined, however, they were so frail, twigs alone having been used in their construction. The eggs could be seen by looking through them from below. Their flesh was here excellent, notwithstanding they were subsisting principally upon the acorns of the deciduous oak (*Quercus grisea*).

41. *Melopelia leucoptera* (Linn.).

Very common.

## b. BIRDS OF THE LOWLANDS (VICINITY OF LA PAZ AND SOUTHWARD).

*Additional specimens from La Paz and south of it.*

1. *Anthus cervinus* (Pall.). (See page 156 of these proceedings.)

The single specimen was shot at San José del Cabo, on the bank of an irrigating ditch, February 7, 1883. Finding it in such a locality, at first sight I supposed it was a water thrush, as it was alone.

I was unable afterward to find the species, although I persecuted a large flock of *A. ludovicianus* for several days after shooting it.

2. *Myiodioides pusillus pileolatus* (Pall.).

Rare, but observed at several localities.

3. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.).

Shot in a dense thicket at Miraflores February 24, 1883. An individual probably seen at La Paz in March following.

4. *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus* (Bp.)

Rare.

[A specimen from San José del Cabo is peculiar in several respects, and may be a different species. For the present, however, I place it here, pending the examination of more specimens, should any be procured.—R. R.]

5. *Poocetes gramineus confinis* Baird.

Rare.

6. *Melospiza lincolni* (Aud.).

Rare.

7. *Agelæus phœniceus* (Linn.).

Rare.

8. *Sturnella neglecta* Aud.  
Rare.
9. *Accipiter cooperi* Bonap.  
Rare.
10. *Gallinago wilsoni* (Temm.).  
Rare.
11. *Steganopus wilsoni* (Sab.).  
One specimen. Very rare.
12. *Porzana carolina* (Linn.).  
Rarely seen.
13. *Chaulelasmus streperus* (Linn.).  
Very common.
14. *Erismatura rubida* (Wils.).  
Very common.
15. *Tachybaptus dominicus* (Linn.).  
Very common at San José, Miraflores, and Santiago, in the winter of 1882-'83, but not recognized the previous winter.

BIRDS OF LOWER CALIFORNIA SOUTH OF 24° 30'.

c. SPECIES POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY ME, BUT NO SPECIMENS PRESERVED.

1. *Æsalon columbarius* (Linn.).  
Dr. H. Ten Kate got a specimen at La Paz in January.
2. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montag.).  
Moderately common in winter.
3. *Hæmatopus palliatus* Temm.  
Of occasional occurrence on the mud flats at La Paz.
4. *Oxyechus vociferus* (Linn.).  
Common at many localities.
5. *Ægialitis semipalmata* Bonap.  
Moderately common.
6. *Pelidna alpina americana* Cass.  
Very common in winter.
7. *Totanus melanoleucus* (Gmel.).  
Same remark as the preceding.
8. *Symphemia semipalmata* (Gmel.).  
Same remarks.
9. *Recurvirostra americana* Gmel.  
Not common.

10. *Himantopus mexicanus* (Mill.).

Not common.

11. *Anas boschas* Linn.

Shot at several localities.

12. *Dafila acuta* (Linn.).

Common.

13. *Nettion carolinensis* (Gmel.).

Moderately common.

14. *Fulix affinis* (Eyt.).

Rare.

15. *Fulix collaris* (Donov.).

Rare.

16. *Æthya americana* (Eyt.).

An adult male shot at La Paz February 12 is the only example.

17. *Mergus serrator* Linn.

Common at La Paz in winter.

18. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linn.).

Rare.

19. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus* Gmel.

Two seen at La Paz February 17.

20. *Sula leucogastra* (Bodd.).

Dr. H. Ten Kate shot an individual near Pichalique Bay in January.

21. *Colymbus torquatus* Brünn.

Two seen by me at La Paz January 27.

In the "Catalogue of a collection of birds made near the southern extremity of Lower California" (see these Proceedings, Vol. 5, pp. 532-549), 135 species are mentioned as having been observed by me.

To these may be added—

21 species positively identified, but no specimens preserved.

17 additional from the Victoria mountains.

14 additional from the low lands of La Paz and south.

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52 total additions.

Total observed to date, 187 species, excluding several unidentified species, among them, at least two falcons and one owl. The most of them, however, are water birds, which are in the aggregate abundant in winter.