

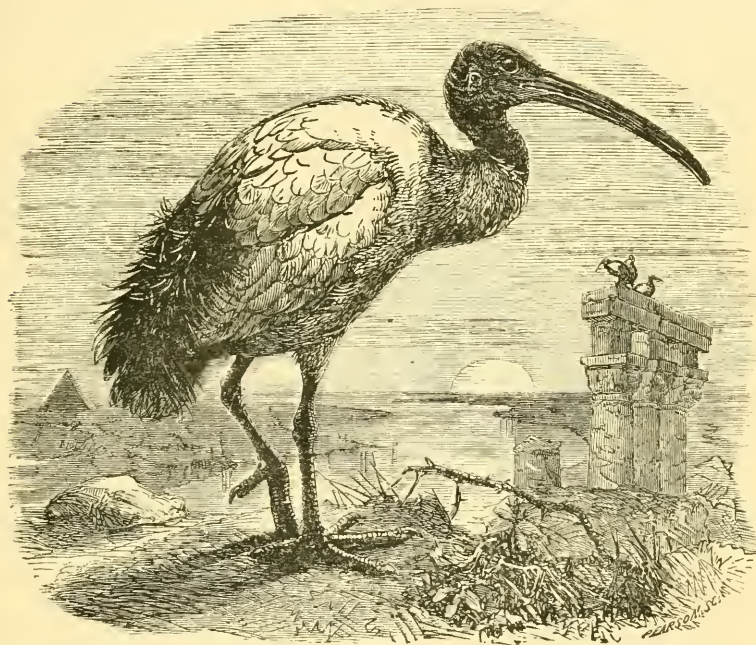
THE IBIS,

A

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY.

EDITED BY

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VOL. V. 1893.

SIXTH SERIES.

Cognovi omnia volatilia cæli.

LONDON:

GURNEY AND JACKSON, 1 PATERNOSTER ROW.
(SUCCESSORS TO J. VAN VOORST.)

1893.

Yangtse); Southwell, Zool. 1892, pp. 356, 405; P. Z. S. 1892, p. 581.

Limnocinclus acuminatus, Gould, Handb. Bds. Austr. ii. p. 254 (1865).

Actodromas acuminatus, Stejn. Bull. U.S. N. M. no. 29, p. 115 (1885) (Bering Island).

From this list it will be evident that the Sharp-tailed Sand-piper is widely distributed over the eastern part of the Palæarctic region, and visits the North Pacific Islands and Alaska during the autumn migration. In winter it passes far south over the Sunda Islands and the Pelew Islands to New Guinea, New Ireland, Australia, the Friendly Islands, and New Zealand.

XV.—List of Birds observed in the Canary Islands.

By E. G. MEADE-WALDO.

THE following list is not intended to be a complete catalogue of the birds of the Canaries, but merely of those observed and procured during a residence of nearly four years in the islands. Specimens of almost the whole of the birds mentioned have been actually obtained, but a few of them I have seen only in the collection of Don Anatael Cabrera at Laguna, and a few others in that of Don Ramon Gomez. The species *not* yet procured, but observed and recognized beyond a doubt, are:—the Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*); the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaëtus albicilla*), seen on the beach close to Arcife, Lanzarote, by Canon Tristram; the small Peregrine (*Falco punicus*), which I could easily have shot, but have contented myself with carefully looking at, occasionally within a distance of a few yards; and an Eagle, seen several times above Esperanza, but not included in the list, which, almost beyond a doubt, was Bonelli's Eagle (*Nisaëtus fasciatus*).

The Spanish name, where given, is the provincial term by which the birds are known to the peasants. It is very hard to get hold of what is really their name for a bird, as many of them do not know any names except those of the birds always

before them. "*Pajaro de monte*" usually covers all birds of the high forest or scrub, and "*Pajaro de Africa*" all visitors. The Gold-crest, which is exceedingly abundant, appears to have no name except "*Pajaro pequeño*"! which it certainly is. Everybody distinguishes all the birds of prey, except the Peregrine, which, on my pointing one out one day to the man who was with me, sitting on a rock looking at us about twenty yards off, he informed me was a kind of *Coruja* (Owl). The Sparrow-Hawk is always called "*Halcón*," not "*Gavilan*."

Of the Ducks and Waders, doubtless many that have not been included occasionally wander to the Canary Islands, for in the spring of 1890 numbers of birds which no one seemed to recognize appeared. And the islands of Montaña Clara, Alegranza, and other small islands and rocks would well repay a visit in the months of June and July, on account of the numerous Petrels that breed there.

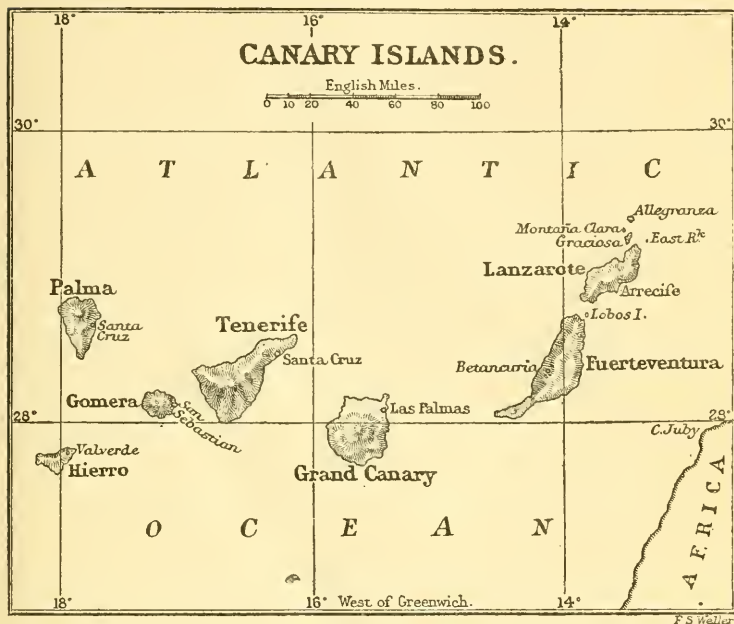
An Owl (*Glaucidium siju*), which has been included in the list of Canarian birds, as I happen to know, was not procured at Adeje, Tenerife, as stated. Don Ramon Gomez showed the specimen to Canon Tristram and myself, and on our expressing doubts as to its occurrence there, told us it had come from Cuba. It has been included in Dr. König's list, but Don Ramon tells me it is his intention to undeceive the author*.

I have mentioned the number of eggs laid by some of the species, because they appear to be so very few compared with what are laid by the same birds in the British Isles. Moreover, *white* clutches are by no means uncommon, and several species lay most curious varieties, none of them, perhaps, more remarkable than those of the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), which not unfrequently lays clutches of white eggs, spotted at the larger end with purplish and pale violet. The Kestrel lays eggs of every possible variety of colouring, white being not rare; while the Raven (*Corvus tingitanus*) is almost as erratic in the colouring of its eggs.

All the islands of the Canary group have been visited, and,

* [*Cf.* remarks, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 616.—ED.]

with the exception of Hierro, several times. Of the smaller outlying uninhabited rocks, I went only to Graciosa, and I was there too early for the Petrels, which come in great numbers in the middle of May.



1. *TURDUS MUSICUS*. Song-Thrush. (*Tordo*.)

The Song-Thrush is an abundant winter visitor to the high ground. I do not remember to have seen it lower than about 1800 feet. A few remain until April.

2. *TURDUS PILARIS*. Fieldfare.

The Fieldfare is, apparently, an accidental straggler, as we saw only one while we were in the Canaries.

3. *TURDUS MERULA*. Blackbird. (*Mirlo*.)

The Blackbird is an abundant resident, breeding from the gardens at the sea-level to as high as any scrub grows. Like many Canarian species, it lays very few eggs, two or three being the usual clutch, and very frequently only one is laid. Occasionally there seems to be a large influx of migrants, consisting principally of males.

4. *SAXICOLA GENANTHE*. Wheatear.

This is a scarce and irregular visitor to the Laguna plains in Tenerife.

5. *PRATINCOLA DACOTILE*, Meade-Waldo, *Ibis*, 1889, p. 504, pl. xv. *Canarian Chat*.

Whether or not this Chat deserves the name of *Canarian* remains yet to be proved, as it probably also inhabits the province of *Sus*, adjoining the island of *Fuerteventura*, where we first saw it, and in the *Canarian Archipelago* this seems to be its sole habitat. It does not occur, so far as we could see, in *Lanzarote*, separated by only a narrow strait; in fact, we never saw it except in the southern part of *Fuerteventura*. It was not rare, and seemed generally distributed wherever there was a little cover, especially frequenting the small *barrancos* on the low hills. Two nests, placed under stones, contained two young apiece, and a pair of old birds were accompanied by two young ones. Two other nests contained three eggs each. It was a very tame little bird, and its alarm-note was much louder and sharper than that of our *Stonechat*.

6. *RUTICILLA PHENICURUS*. *Redstart*.

A few *Redstarts* touch at the islands in spring and autumn.

7. *RUTICILLA TITYS*. *Black Redstart*.

The *Black Redstart* is rather more frequent than the last.

8. *CYANECULA WOLFI*. *White-spotted Bluethroat*.

I have seen but two specimens of this species that were shot at *Laguna*.

9. *ERITHACUS SUPERBUS*, König, *J. f. O.* 1889, p. 183. *Tenerifian Redbreast*. (*San Antonio*.)

The *Redbreast* with brilliant red throat and white underparts is exceedingly abundant in the island of *Tenerife*, and also in suitable places in *Grand Canary*, frequenting always the high ground. The number of eggs laid is two or three, occasionally four, and the nest is not unfrequently

placed up in the branches of a tree. I have never seen a typical *Erithacus rubecula* in Tenerife, or a Tenerifian Redbreast in any other island except Tenerife and Grand Canary. At the same time plenty of Redbreasts from Europe are almost or quite as bright as the Tenerife bird, although *E. superbus* has a different look about it.

10. ERITHACUS RUBECULA. Redbreast.

The Common Redbreast is abundant in the islands of Gomera, Palma, and Hierro.

11. SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA. Spectacled Warbler. (*Ratonero*.)

Abundant everywhere from the coast up to 3500 feet, getting scarcer the higher it goes. In summer some are found up to 6000 feet. It frequents also the hottest plains by the sea on the south side of the island, where nothing but cactus and euphorbia grows.

12. SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA. Black-headed Warbler. (*Capirote colorado*.)

Another abundant resident, but scarce near the coast. It frequents all the thick scrub up to the highest tops. In Fuerteventura it is common in the tamarisk valleys.

13. SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA. Blackcap. (*Capirote*.)

This is an abundant resident, except in Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. Large numbers of migrants also arrive in the autumn. It does not ascend very high up the mountain as a rule, but I have on two or three occasions seen large numbers of hens in the laurel-forests. *Sylvia heinekeni*, the black-throated variety, in the Canaries, appears to be confined to the island of Palma.

14. REGULUS TENERIFÆ, Seebohm, Brit. Birds, i. p. 459. Canarian Gold-crest.

The Canarian form of the Gold-crest is abundant in all the western islands, frequenting the high ground, tree-heath, and pine- and laurel-woods. It lays from three to five eggs, indistinguishable from those of *R. cristatus*.

15. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS. Chiffchaff. (*Hornero.*)

The Chiffchaff is common everywhere at all elevations, except in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote. Its voice and habits differ much from those of our bird. It lays from three to five eggs.

16. PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX. Wood-Warbler.

I have seen but one example of the Wood-Warbler in the Canaries.

17. PARUS ULTRAMARINUS. Ultramarine Tit. (*Frailero.*)

In suitable places in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote; in the latter island we saw it only in the neighbourhood of Haria. The Canarian form is rather paler in colour and smaller in size than Moroccan and Algerian examples.

18. PARUS TENERIFÆ. Tenerife Blue Tit. (*Frailero.*)

Is common throughout the islands of Tenerife, Gomera, and Gran Canaria. It lays from three to five eggs.

19. PARUS PALMENSIS, Meade-Waldo, Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 6, iii. p. 490. Palman Blue Tit. (*Fula.*)

Common in the pine-forests of La Palma, a very few coming into the laurel-woods. It appears never to approach houses or towns, and breeds fully a month earlier than *P. tenerifæ*. It lays from three to five eggs.

20. PARUS OMBRIOSUS, Meade-Waldo, Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 6, v. p. 103. Hierran Blue Tit.

The Green-backed Blue Tit of Hierro is common in the pines of that island, a few passing into the tree-heath district.

21. MOTACILLA ALBA. White Wagtail. (*Pispa.*)

A not uncommon winter visitor. In the winter of 1890-91 it was exceedingly numerous.

22. MOTACILLA MELANOPE. Grey Wagtail. (*Pispa, Lavandera.*)

This most familiar and charming bird is common everywhere, frequenting the towns and coming freely into the houses. A pair bred every year on the top of our hall-door in Tenerife, rearing annually two or three broods. It lays

three to six eggs, not unfrequently a clutch of pure white ones, and occasionally some of a bright brick-red colour. It is rather larger and has a longer tail than our English bird.

23. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS. Tree-Pipit.

A very rare straggler. I have seen but two of them.

24. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS. Tawny Pipit.

I have seen this Pipit only in Fuerteventura, where it was common in spring.

25. ANTHUS BERTHELOTI. Berthelot's Pipit. (*Caminero* or *Corre-camino*.)

Abundant in all the islands from the coast to the highest cumbres. It is least abundant in the island of La Palma. I have never seen the least variation in the colour of its eggs.

26. ORIOLUS GALBULA. Golden Oriole. (*Oropendola*.)

The Golden Oriole is an irregular but occasionally numerous spring visitor.

27. LANIUS ALGERIENSIS. Algerian Grey Shrike. (*Al-cairon*.)

This Shrike is found in all the Canary Islands, and is exceedingly numerous in the eastern group. It is strange that specimens from the eastern islands should differ from the mainland form more than those of the western islands do. The Shrikes of Fuerteventura and Graciosa are far paler on the underparts than Moroccan specimens. In the western islands they are darker, but still not so dark as the majority of examples of *L. algeriensis* from the mainland. In Tenerife this Shrike is abundant on the south side of the island, and is fairly plentiful on the cumbres and in the cañadas, at 7000 feet, but very rarely comes down the northern slopes. The Shrikes from the high ground are darker in colour than those on the coast. In Fuerteventura an isabelline variety occurs, and I took a young sandy-coloured bird from a nest, with a pure white-breasted cock and a sandy hen for its parents. The young one brought to England moulted out

into a dark grey. The eggs are from four to six, and vary very slightly in colour.

28. *LANIUS POMERANUS*. Woodchat.

I have seen but one specimen of this Shrike.

29. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA*. Spotted Flycatcher.

An occasional straggler.

30. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA*. Pied Flycatcher.

Like the last, occasionally met with.

+31. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*. Swallow. (*Golondrina*.)

A spring and autumn visitor, occasionally in large numbers only remaining a day or so, as a rule.

32. *CHELIDON URBICA*. Martin.

As the Chimney Swallow, but more irregular.

+33. *COTILE RIPARIA*. Sand-Martin.

I have only seen a few, in 1890-91.

34. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS*. Goldfinch. (*Pajaro pintado*.)

The Goldfinch is found in all the islands, but is most common in Grand Canary, on the south side of Tenerife, and in the neighbourhood of Los Llanos, in La Palma. It is rarer and more local in the eastern islands.

35. *SERINUS CANARIUS*. Canary. (*Pajaro canario*.)

The Canary is very common in all the islands except in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote. In La Palma it is wonderfully abundant, and may be seen in great flocks throughout the breeding-season, as if there was not room for all to pair and breed. In Tenerife it commences breeding near the coast in January; while in the high mountains it breeds in June and July. It occasionally lays clutches of pure white eggs.

36. *PASSER SALICICOLA*. Spanish Sparrow. (*Palmero*.)

The Spanish Sparrow is common in Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura, and Lanzarote, but though it has been introduced into Tenerife, it fortunately has not established itself there.

37. *PETRONIA STULTA*. Yellow-throated Rock-Sparrow. (*Triqueno*.)

Common and resident in all the islands except Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

38. *FRINGILLA CANARIENSIS*. Tintillon Chaffinch. (*Chinchillon, Chuve*.)

This Chaffinch is fairly abundant in all suitable places in Tenerife, Gran Canaria, and Gomera. In winter it occasionally comes down to the gardens at sea-level, but does not breed lower than about 2000 feet. It lays two or three eggs, occasionally four. The earliest clutch I ever took was on May 16th. It not unfrequently lays white eggs.

39. *FRINGILLA PALMÆ*, Tristram, Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 6, iii. p. 489. Palman Chaffinch. (*Pajaro de monte*.)

The Palman Chaffinch is very common in the island of Palma, and ranges right through the pine-forests. Its song and call-notes are quite different from those of *F. canariensis*. In Hierro an intermediate form between this and *F. canariensis* occurs.

40. *FRINGILLA TEYDEA*. Teydean Chaffinch. (*Pajaro azul*.)

This beautiful Chaffinch, I am glad to say, appears to hold its own in all the pine-forests of Tenerife, and in one district seems to increase, owing, I believe, to a war waged against all the Sparrow-Hawks that breed there and that evidently feed on the poor "*Azules*." They are the tamest birds imaginable; when we were camped in the pine-forest they would freely come into our tent to feed, and would anxiously wait for us to liberate from our fingers a butterfly that had been captured. Though feeding on the pine-seed, they do equally well without it in confinement, but appear to want a great deal of insect food. They seem perfectly hardy, a fine old cock in our aviary having been out all through the winters of 1891 and 1892. The nest is built at the end of June, and two eggs only are laid.

41. *LINOTA CANNABINA*. Linnet. (*Millero*.)

The Linnet is abundant in all the islands, and except in

the island of Fuerteventura, where it is rare to get an example with any red at all on the breast, is usually very rich in colour.

42. *ERYTHROSPIZA GITHAGINEA*. Trumpeter Bullfinch. (*Alburion, Pispo.*)

This familiar little bird is very abundant in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, and in suitable parts of Gran Canaria.

43. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*. Corn-Bunting. *Pajuro Pollo, Triquero.*)

Abundant in all the islands.

44. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*. Sky-Lark. (*Alondra.*)

A regular winter visitor in small numbers to the Laguna plains and other suitable places.

45. *CALANDRELLA MINOR*. Lesser Short-toed Lark. (*Calandria.*)

A most abundant species in all the eastern islands. A summer visitor to the Laguna plains.

46. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA*.

I have only seen one specimen, that had been shot at Laguna.

47. *STURNUS VULGARIS*. Starling. (*Estornino.*)

A regular winter visitor, but in no great numbers, to all the islands.

48. *PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS*. Red-billed Chough. (*Grajo.*)

Confined to the island of Palma, where it abounds.

49. *CORYUS TINGITANUS*. Morocco Raven. (*Cuervo.*)

This Raven is abundant in all the islands, especially in the island of Hierro. Their eggs vary most remarkably in colour.

50. *CYPSELUS UNICOLOR*. Madeiran Black Swift. (*Andoriña.*)

This little Swift is extremely abundant all the year, except from about October 10th to the beginning of January, but occasional birds turn up when the main body is absent.

51. CYPSELUS PALLIDUS. Pallid Swift. (*Andoriña*.)

Arrives in early spring, and is found in all the islands, but is most common in the eastern group and near the coast.

52. CYPSELUS MELBA. White-bellied Swift.

I have only known of one example of this Swift, which was killed near Santa Cruz, Tenerife.

53. PICUS MAJOR. Great Spotted Woodpecker. (*Peto*, *Carpintero*.)

This Woodpecker appears to be confined to the pine-forests of Tenerife and Gran Canaria. In La Palma, where there are splendid pine-woods, we could hear nothing of it, and we saw no work in the old trees. Still it seems hardly possible for it not to have found its way there. The majority of examples of this species from the Canaries have the breast-feathers very brown in colour. This colouring is *not* taken from the trees, as the young feathers sprout up of the same colour. An occasional specimen only has the breast nearly white.

54. CORACIAS GARRULA. Roller.

An occasional visitor.

55. MEROPS APIASTER. Bee-eater. (*Abejaruco*.)

An irregular but occasionally numerous spring-migrant, especially to the eastern islands.

56. UPUPA EPOPS. Hoopoe. (*Tabobo*.)

Common in all the islands, but especially numerous in the eastern group. In Lanzarote and Fuerteventura every village is full of them, and they extend right into the desert if there are convenient nesting-holes among the rocks. They are to a great extent migratory, though many spend the winter in these islands, in some years more numerous than in others.

57. CUCULUS CANORUS. Cuckoo. (*Cucu*.)

The Cuckoo is an irregular spring visitor; in the spring of 1890 many came for a few days. All the birds were very small and dark in colour.

58. STRIX FLAMMEA. Barn-Owl. (*Lechuza*.)

The Barn-Owl is resident, but not abundant; it is commonest in the neighbourhood of Laguna, Tenerife. I have never seen more than two eggs in a nest.

59. ASIO OTUS. Long-eared Owl. (*Coruja*.)

This is the common Owl of the islands, and is generally distributed, living in caves, in the thickly-wooded sides of the barrancos, in the evergreens and palm-trees, in the towns, and in the *Euphorbia canariensis* on the most arid lava-flows.

60. ASIO BRACHYOTUS. Short-eared Owl.

An occasional winter visitor. I have seen only two examples.

61. NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS. Egyptian Vulture. (*Guirre*.)

This is the only Vulture we saw in the Canaries; it is common in all the islands except La Palma and Hierro, where we could not see or hear of it. It appears to be most abundant in the eastern islands, and is especially numerous in the neighbourhood of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. In Fuerteventura it sometimes places its nest in very accessible places.

62. BUTEO VULGARIS. Buzzard. (*Aguililla*.)

Common and resident in all the islands. Many migrants occasionally arrive. In the autumn of 1890 I saw fifteen together, sitting on a wall, and so tame that they let me walk along and examine them at a distance of not more than fifteen yards. I shot one that had an almost pure white breast; it was a young bird, and had nothing either in the crop or stomach. Although it almost invariably builds in a cliff or on the steep side of a barranco, we once found a nest in a laurel tree close to the town of Icod. Strange to say, we never saw *Buteo desertorum*.

63. PERNIS APIVORUS. Honey-Buzzard.

An accidental visitor; I have seen only two.

64. HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA. White-tailed Eagle.

I have never met with this bird, but Canon Tristram saw one in Lanzarote.

65. ACCIPITER NISUS. Sparrow-Hawk. (*Halcón*.)

Common and resident; many also arrive in the autumn. It is most numerous in the mountains. We once found its nest in a low bush of tree-heath, not more than a yard from the ground. It sometimes breeds in laurels, but much more frequently in pines. It is probably only a visitor in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

66. MILVUS ICTINUS. Kite. (*Milano*.)

The Red Kite is common and resident in all the western islands, except La Palma, where we could neither see it nor hear of it. It is extremely bold about the towns, but wary enough in the country. The poor peasants who live in the mountains have a great dread of the Kites, which take the chickens almost out of the houses, but they care little for the Buzzards.

67. FALCO PUNICUS. Small Peregrine Falcon. (*Halcón real*.)

I have no doubt now that the Falcon which occurs in the Canaries is referable to this species. I do not think they breed in Tenerife, as we could never see or hear of a nest, but they are occasionally seen at all seasons of the year. Canon Tristram, however, saw a pair that appeared to contemplate nesting in Gran Canaria.

68. FALCO VESPERTINUS. Red-footed Falcon.

During the spring migration of 1890 a good many examples of *F. vespertinus* visited the valley of Orotava.

69. TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS. Kestrel. (*Cernicalo*.)

The Kestrel abounds in all the islands, and, except in Fuerteventura, the female is always very dark in colour and very strongly marked, having the tail blue, with narrow black bars after the first moult; the males are rather light and pure in colour. The Fuerteventura Kestrel is *much* smaller and lighter in colour, the females being *very* pale. In Lan-

zarote, close by, the dark form again occurs, although the islands have almost similar features.

70. PANDION HALIAËTUS. Osprey. (*Gincho*.)

The Osprey inhabits all the islands, especially those of the eastern group and the rocks and islets surrounding them. They appear to be most abundant in the summer. I have seen them take gold-fish out of a tank. When on the point of Fuerteventura known as Iandía, we were surprised to see the Ospreys waiting about with the Gulls for small fishes and scraps thrown away by a party of fishermen who were camped on the beach salting fish.

71. SULA BASSANA. Gannet.

The Gannet is occasionally abundant round the islands, especially between Fuerteventura and Cape Juby.

72. ARDEA CINEREA. Heron. (*Garza*.)

The Heron frequents all the coasts and tanks, especially in winter. I do not think that they breed in the Canaries, but am not sure. Although many spend the summer there, I never saw one in breeding-plumage.

73. ARDEA PURPUREA. Purple Heron. (*Garza real*.)

I have seen only one specimen of the Purple Heron, which had been shot at Laguna.

74. ARDEA BUBULCUS. Buff-backed Heron.

An occasional straggler.

75. ARDEA RALLOIDES. Squacco Heron.

Somewhat more frequent than the last.

76. NYCTICORAX GRISEUS. Night-Heron.

I have only seen one; it had been shot at Laguna.

77. ARDETTA STURMI (Wagl.). Sturm's Bittern.

I have seen an example of this bird, which had been shot at Laguna.

78. ARDETTA MINUTA. Little Bittern.

A Little Bittern was caught alive in Puerto Orotava in 1890. I have kept it in confinement ever since.

79. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*. Bittern.

The Bittern occasionally occurs at Laguna. I have seen one and heard of another.

80. *CICONIA ALBA*. White Stork. (*Cigüena*.)

Sixteen White Storks frequented the plains of Laguna in the winter of 1890-91. Four of them were shot by a wretched boy at one discharge of his gun; no others were killed.

81. *PLATALEA LEUCORODIA*. Spoonbill. (*Cuchareta*.)

The Spoonbill has been killed in Tenerife and visits the shores of Fuerteventura in small flocks, especially the coast by Toston.

82. *PHENICOPTERUS ROSEUS*. Flamingo. (*Flamenco*.)

The remains of a dead Flamingo were all I saw, but it seems well known to the fishermen on the eastern islands. They also described to me a larger grey bird as occasionally appearing, which was doubtless the Common Crane (*Grus cinerea*).

83. *ANAS BOSCHAS*. Wild Duck. (*Pato real*.)

In wet seasons a good many Wild Ducks visit the Laguna plains, and a few also come to the tanks in the valleys. In the winter of 1890-91 many were killed.

84. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*. Shoveller. (*Pato*.)

I have seen only one, which I shot in a tank by our house.

85. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA*. Common Teal. (*Pato*.)

The Teal is not very uncommon in wet winters, but does not come in large flocks, like the Ducks.

86. *FULIGULA FERINA*. Pochard. (*Pato*.)

A small flock of Pochards frequented the tanks by the Botanical Gardens in 1889.

87. *MARECA PENELOPE*. Wigeon. (*Pato*.)

I have seen but one Wigeon.

88. *COLUMBA LIVIA*. Rock-Dove. (*Paloma salvaje*.)

The Rock-Dove is abundant throughout the islands, and is

not confined to the coast, but inhabits suitable cliffs inland. In Fuerteventura there is a deep cave, running almost straight down in a level plain, which is the home of many hundreds. The natives occasionally draw a net over the opening at night and catch large quantities.

89. COLUMBA BOLLEI. Bolle's Pigeon. (*Paloma Turqueza*, or *Turcón*, La Palma.)

This laurel-loving Pigeon inhabits all the suitable grounds in the islands of Tenerife, Gomera, La Palma, and Gran Canaria, in which island, however, Canon Tristram reports it to be very scarce, owing to the almost complete destruction of the old laurel-forests. In Tenerife, ever since we went there in 1887, it has become very rare in the neighbourhood of Orotava and Santa Ursula. In La Palma and Gomera it appeared to be fairly abundant. It lays but one egg, and breeds all the year round, but principally in winter and early spring.

90. COLUMBA LAURIVORA. Canarian Pigeon. (*Rabi blanco*, *Rovalvo*, *Rabichi*, or *Ravil*.)

This Pigeon inhabits the steep slopes and deep barrancos, with sides and ledges covered with laurel-scrub, in the islands of Gomera and La Palma. In La Palma it feeds largely on the fruit of the til-tree (*Oreodaphne fatens*). In Gomera a few used occasionally to drop out of the almost inaccessible slopes they lived in into the barley- and flax-fields at the foot of the mountain to feed. I noticed that in 1888 a great deal of the fruit of the viñatigo and laurel was blighted, so probably that was the reason. The peasants said they had never seen them do it before. In La Palma they come into the cherry-trees to eat the fruit. The Canarian Pigeon does not appear to breed before May, and nests throughout the summer; it lays but one egg on a stump or a ledge, in the most impossible places to get at.

91. TURTUR COMMUNIS. Turtle Dove. (*Tortola*.)

A common summer visitor to many parts of all the islands, but somewhat local; a few spend the winter in the eastern islands.

92. CACCABIS RUFA. Red-legged Partridge. (*Perdiz.*)

This Partridge is found only in the island of Gran Canaria, where it is fairly abundant from the highest cumbres to the coast.

93. CACCABIS PETROSA. Barbary Partridge. (*Perdiz.*)

This species is found in Tenerife, Gomera, and Lanzarote. In Lanzarote it is confined to one particular lava-flow, which seems strange, as many other parts seem suitable to its habits. In Gomera it abounds everywhere, and, considering the treatment it receives in Tenerife at all seasons, holds its own wonderfully. It is found in all localities except on the plains at Laguna, a large corn-growing tract, but favours the barrancos and rough volcanic ground known as "Mal pais." In La Palma, although it has repeatedly been introduced, for some unknown reason it will not establish itself.

94. COTURNIX COMMUNIS. Quail. (*Codorniz.*)

A most abundant resident in all the islands, and numbers of migrants arrive in the very early spring. There does not appear to be any migration away from the islands, at any rate those of the western group. They rear two or three bebies in the year. When caught, this Quail becomes perfectly tame at once, thus differing widely from those which are obtained in England.

95. PTEROCLES ARENARIUS. Black-breasted Sand-Grouse. (*Ganga.*)

This is a very common resident in Fuerteventura, but much less so in Lanzarote. It occasionally comes to Gran Canaria.

96. PORZANA MARUETTA. Spotted Crake.

A not very unfrequent winter visitor.

97. PORZANA BAILLONI. Baillon's Crake.

This Crake occurs during most winters at Laguna.

98. PORZANA PARVA. Little Crake.

Of this species I have seen two examples at Laguna.

99. *CREX PRATENSIS*. Land-Rail. (*Guion de Codorniz*.)

A few Land-Rails appear in the autumn and spring. They are most frequent at Laguna.

100. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*. Waterhen. (*Polla de agua*.)

An occasional straggler.

101. *FULICA ATRA*. Common Coot.

A regular winter visitor in small numbers to all the islands. I have seen several walking about on the roofs of the houses in Puerto Orotava.

102. *OTIS UNDULATA*. Houbara Bustard. (*Abutarda*.)

Resident and fairly numerous on the island of Fuerteventura; less numerous in Lanzarote, and very occasional in Gran Canaria. This Bustard does not frequent the most barren plains, but likes a certain amount of low scrub, especially the "ajulaga." This is generally crowded with small snails, which the Bustards eat largely. They are generally rather shy, but at times ridiculously tame and stupid, for on one occasion a Bustard that had for some time been trotting along about 150 yards ahead of us suddenly sidled round, and, putting a little "ajulaga" bush between us and itself, squatted. When we came up it moved very slowly round, keeping its head towards us and the bush between us. After looking the bird over at the distance of five yards, we drove it up, but did not shoot it. The female is very tame at the nest, and runs away stooping and dodging. If put on the wing the cock generally follows her, and when they settle again will "show off" to her.

103. *ÆDICNEMUS CREPITANS*. Thick-knee. (*Alcaravan, Pedro Luis*.)

Common in suitable situations in all the islands, and very abundant in the eastern islands. This bird is extremely tame, frequenting and breeding in the little cultivated patches and gardens in the villages as well as on the plains.

104. *GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA*. Common Pratincole.

I have seen only three of these birds.

105. CURSORIUS GALLICUS. Cream-coloured Courser. (*Engaño muchachos.*)

The Courser is common and resident in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, and occasionally met with in Gran Canaria. About 1000 eggs of this poor bird were taken in the spring of 1891 in the island of Fuerteventura and sent to Europe, by far the greater number to England. Of course nearly double the number were destroyed, as the eggs that were incubated would all be thrown away. It is sincerely to be hoped that the market has now been glutted, and that the eggs will have so fallen in value as not to be worth taking again. At the price of two and even three pesetas apiece, that was offered for them out there, nearly the whole population (including, I have been assured, some of the priests) turned out eggging, and probably pretty well cleared the whole of the nests for that season. It is possible there may have been an extra number of birds in 1891, but in the three breeding-seasons that I spent in the island, though there were numbers of birds, not nearly all were breeding. Possibly after the very wet winter of 1890-91 there was a greater abundance of food, and so a larger number of pairs nested. It is not always the birds of the previous year that do not breed, as a cock of a breeding-pair that was shot was in half-immature plumage.

106. SQUATAROLA HELVETICA. Grey Plover. (*Zarapito.*)

A regular winter visitor. Many winter in the eastern islands.

107. ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA. Kentish Plover. (*Patito.*)

Abundant and resident in the eastern islands, and breeding in suitable places in all the islands.

108. ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA. Ringed Plover. (*Patito.*)

A regular visitor in spring and autumn to all the islands.

109. EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS. Dotterel.

An occasional visitor in flocks to the Laguna plains.

110. VANELLUS CRISTATUS. Lapwing. (*Ave fria.*)

A regular winter visitor, occasionally in large flocks. I have seen it myself only in Tenerife and Fuerteventura.

111. STREPSILAS INTERPRES. Turnstone. (*Zarapito.*)

A regular visitor to all the islands, and very common in the eastern group. Many spend the summer there, and though I have seen them in pairs in June, I could not see that they were nesting. The peasants assured me that they did nest.

112. HÆMATOPUS CAPENSIS, Licht. Black Oyster-catcher. (*Corvino, Grajo de mar, Cuervo marino.*)

Not numerous, but resident in the eastern islands and rocks. It breeds very late. It appears to be always in pairs and is very tame. Its voice is much louder and stronger than that of the Common Oyster-catcher.

113. HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS. Black-winged Stilt.

I have only heard of one from Fuerteventura, but I had a picture of it sent to me.

114. SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA. Woodcock. (*Gallinuela or Chocha Perdiz.*)

Resident in all the laurel and evergreen forests. Owing to the density of the woods, Woodcocks are very hard to see when flushed, but in the evenings many may be observed on wing. In the island of Gomera they are particularly numerous. In La Palma, where, however, they are well known by the name of "*Chocha Perdiz*," I saw very few, but I was not out in the forests in the dusk. They have a habit here in the spring of collecting on certain grassy plots in the mountains to strut about and show off. Many are shot at this time. They seem to be breeding from February to July, as I have had fresh eggs in both months. It is hard to say to what extent they are migratory, but we never saw the slightest evidence of an arrival of Woodcocks.

115. GALLINAGO CELESTIS. Common Snipe. (*Gachona.*)

A regular winter visitor, but in irregular numbers. It is sometimes very numerous about Laguna.

116. TRINGA ALPINA. Dunlin.

Occasionally numerous on migration, but rarer in the eastern islands.

117. *TRINGA MINUTA*. Little Stint.

Occasionally met with on migration.

118. *TRINGA SUBARQUATA*. Curlew Sandpiper.

Occasional. In May 1891 many of these birds arrived in beautiful full breeding-plumage.

119. *MACHETES PUGNAX*. Ruff.

Not numerous, but pretty regular. When there has been a heavy fall of rain the Ruff is occasionally seen in some numbers on the Laguna plains.

120. *CALIDRIS ARENARIA*. Sanderling.

We saw Sanderlings in large flocks in the eastern islands, and on migration everywhere.

121. *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS*. Common Sandpiper.

There are some of these Sandpipers about all the year round; a few probably breed.

122. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS*. Green Sandpiper.

I have seen very few.

123. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA*. Wood-Sandpiper.

This species appears to be more frequent than the last.

124. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS*. Redshank.

Occasionally met with.

125. *TOTANUS CANESCENS*. Greenshank.

A more regular visitor than the last three.

126. *LIMOSA LAPPONICA*. Bar-tailed Godwit.

I have seen but one of this species.

127. *LIMOSA ÆGOCEPHALA*. Black-tailed Godwit.

Occasionally seen in flocks at Laguna.

128. *NUMENIUS ARQUATA*. Curlew. (*Zarapito*.)

The Curlew is occasional in the western, but pretty common in the eastern islands.

129. *NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS*. Whimbrel. (*Zarapito*.)

A regular and numerous visitor, especially so in the eastern islands. A few may be seen all the year round. Many

arrive in August, and they may be seen in pairs at the beginning of June.

130. STERNA HIRUNDO. Common Tern. (*Garajáo.*)

A summer visitor to all the islands. In Tenerife they lay their eggs on the tops of high isolated rocks. They winter in the eastern islands.

131. STERNA CANTIACA. Sandwich Tern.

Seen in flocks off Fuerteventura.

132. LARUS CACHINNANS. Mediterranean Herring-Gull. (*Gaviota.*)

This is the common resident Gull. It breeds in all the islands. We never saw the true *Larus argentatus*.

133. LARUS FUSCUS. Lesser Black-backed Gull.

There are generally a few of these Gulls about in winter.

134. LARUS MARINUS. Great Black-backed Gull.

Much scarcer than the last.

135. LARUS CANUS. Common Gull.

Uncommon here. I have seen but two of this species.

136. RISSA TRIDACTYLA. Kittiwake Gull.

I have seen very few of these Gulls.

137. PROCELLARIA PELAGICA. Storm-Petrel. (*Perrito.*)

This Petrel is always to be seen about the islands, but I have not found it breeding.

138. PROCELLARIA LEUCORHOA. Leach's Petrel.

Occasional in winter; at least I have not seen them at any other season.

139. OCEANITES OCEANICUS. Wilson's Petrel.

I have seen this Petrel occasionally at all seasons, but do not think they nest here.

140. PUFFINUS ANGLORUM. Manx Shearwater. (*Pardela.*)

This species is sometimes common on the water in winter. It does not seem to come to land.

141. PUFFINUS KUHLI. Mediterranean Shearwater. (*Paradela*.)

Extremely numerous and resident on all the Canary Islands. I have seen flocks of many thousands on the water between Gran Canaria and Fuerteventura.

142. PUFFINUS OBSCURUS. Dusky Shearwater. (*Tahoce*.)

Resident, but not in great numbers. It breeds very early in the year.

143. BULWERIA COLUMBINA. Bulwer's Petrel. (*Tahoce negro*.)

Fairly common. It breeds on all the islands, usually under big loose stones at the foot of the cliffs.

144. PELAGODROMA MARINA. White-breasted Storm Petrel.

Not common. Some of these Petrels are caught by the fishermen every spring. They come to the torch which is used for night-fishing.

145. ALCA TORDA. Razorbill.

A quite accidental visitor. I have known of but two.

146. FRATERCULA ARCTICA. Puffin.

I have seen but one young Puffin. It was obtained at Orotava.

XVI.—*On a remarkable new Finch from the Highlands of Bolivia.* By HANS, Graf von BERLEPSCH.

(Plate VI.)

I PROPOSE to characterize a new form of the family Fringillidæ, from Bolivia, as

† COMPSOSPIZA, gen. nov.

Rostro pro mole parvo (poospizino), fere recto, maxilla leviter incurva, apice obtusa, tomis convexis; narium aperturis oblongis, expositis, harum parte superiore membranâ partim obtectis: pedibus fortibus, tarsis antice scutellis 7 prominentibus obtectis, postice lævibus; unguibus fortibus: remigibus reetricibusque latis et longis, illorum 3°, 4°, et 5° longissimis et ferè æqualibus; caudâ modicè graduatâ: coloribus insolitis.