

who first reached the country in the middle of October 1878. The summer rains had ceased about ten days previously and the weather had been good, but throughout October, November, and December 'norther' followed 'norther' every ten to fourteen days, accompanied by light drizzling rain which lasted generally from two to four days with increasing cold. In January there were four moderately heavy rainfalls with strong 'northers' and cold nights. In February there were five 'northers' and one with very heavy rainfall accompanied by hailstones of such size that they were quickly gathered up and by many people placed in bottles thinking that they might so be preserved. From February 26th to May 23rd no rain fell and the sky was cloudless for weeks at a time. The heat during the day gradually increased, until in April and May it was almost intolerable, and on account of the dry air and clear sky the radiation was so great that the nights were disagreeably cool, though generally so balmy and pleasant. The birds disappeared as the dry season advanced, when only a few common resident species round the ranchos and Aguadas were to be found. On May 23rd the first summer rains commenced and were followed by daily showers at mid-day. All nature changed as if by magic, new leaves grew, and the forests were again populated with songsters. In June the rains began at 11 A.M. and ceased at 2 P.M. with an almost daily regularity. In July they began at 10 A.M. and ceased at 3 or 4 P.M., but never earlier. In August it rained from 10 A.M. till nightfall and sometimes later. During these last three months there were from five to eight days in each month upon which no rain fell. The heat was almost insupportable, even to the natives, and yellow fever raged in the towns of the interior. In September the rains lasted from 8 or 9 A.M. till midnight and not infrequently all night, but the weather became milder. Reptiles were almost the only things to be found. In October 1879, during the first twenty-seven days, rain fell in torrents and almost incessantly, the sun was seen but on four or five days and the stars appeared in patches on five nights only, and not five consecutive hours were fine during those twenty-seven days. Yellow fever gave place to bilious fever. Insects were rarely seen, birds almost entirely disappeared, and any skins were worthless, as either owing to the heavy rain or to some other cause the feathers had not yet commenced to grow.

An account of Yucatan would scarcely be complete without some particulars of the distribution of species and a comparison with that of the islands off the coast and in the Bay of Honduras, which were visited on our behalf by Dr. Gaumer. In a summary of the island-birds examined in detail by Salvin ('Ibis,' 1890, pp. 84-95) he arrives at the conclusion that they split up naturally into three groups. Leaving out Meco, the exact position of which is uncertain, he considers that those from Holbox and Mugerres may be classed together, Cozumel by itself, and Ruatan and Bonaca (Guanaja) by themselves, though all show a strong affinity to the birds of the mainland. The two last named islands are stated to be very different in their physical features to the others mentioned; they are of high altitude and attain an elevation of 1200 feet, and