

than one continental species of this genus, unless indeed *P. obscurus* is really separable. Under any circumstances *P. mexicanus* and *P. rubineus* must pass under the same name. With at least one hundred and fifty specimens before us from various localities no other conclusion seems possible. An occasional example from S. America is blacker than others, but this does not appear to be the rule in any one locality.

M. rubineus appears to be a very common bird on the southern side of the Rio Grande and Gila rivers, but rarer on the Texan side of the northern limit of its range. Thence it passes southwards through a large portion of Mexico, extending from ocean to ocean and living in equal abundance in the highlands of the valley of Mexico. It occurs also in Northern Yucatan and on Cozumel Island, as well as in British Honduras in the pine districts so characteristic of that country. In Guatemala it was found by Constanica, but in what locality we were never able to ascertain, for we only once met with it in our many journeys through that country and it certainly does not come within the hunting-grounds of the bird-collectors of Coban. It was only on emerging from the vast forests of Northern Vera Paz between the villages of San Luis and Poctum that Salvin found it abundant in the large open pine-tract crossed by the road to Peten. It was equally common in all similar districts of that region, but always in open country and not in the forests which line the river-banks.

The brilliant plumage of the male bird and its habit of rising in the air and descending somewhat after the manner of *Anthus pratensis* render *P. rubineus* a conspicuous bird wherever it is found, and one not easily overlooked in a country inhabited by it.

Its absence from all the country south of Guatemala until we reach Colombia is remarkable and not easily accounted for, as localities apparently suitable to it are to be found through most of the intervening countries.

Mr. Hudson⁷ has published some interesting notes on this species as observed by him in the Argentine Republic. In that country *P. rubineus* is a migratory bird, arriving about the end of September and soon afterwards commencing to breed. Its nest is composed of lichens, webs, and thistle-down, which are neatly woven into a compact nest and sometimes lined with feathers. The eggs, four in number, are pointed, and spotted at the broad end with black and usually with a few large grey spots.

SAYORNIS.

Sayornis, Bonaparte, Ann. Sc. Nat. sér. 4, Zool. i. p. 133 (1854) (type *Sayornis saya*); Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 32.

Aulanax, Cabanis, J. f. Orn. 1856, p. 2 (type *Sayornis nigricans*).

Theromyias, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. ii. p. 68 (1859) (type *Sayornis saya*).

Empidias, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. ii. p. 69 (1859) (type *Sayornis phæbe*); Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 264.

The position of this genus and its limits have been and still remain uncertain. Prof. Cabanis, who divides it into three genera, places all of them near *Myiarchus* in the