

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

2

FIELD DIARY

Mr. E. A. Goldman

(Official title.)

Period, Jan. 17 to Feb. 24

1935

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Jan. 17. La Barea to Zahuayo
→ return in afternoon

Flooded corn field in route
Spoonbill - hundreds.
Green-winged Teal - hundreds
Cootail - a few
Yellow-necked Blackbird
Flocks of Indigo.
Glossy Ibis.

Lake Chapala
Cormorant - common.
Western grebe - common
Red-billed grebe. common

Lagoon or marsh near ^{village of}
Comatillo (about 5 mi long).

Geese (white) 23

Geese (br. fr.) 10 in two lots.

Ducks (large numbers uncounted)

Acetone

Jan. 18 La Barca to
Early morning trip with Mr
Gil & Bro. was ^{quite} barren of results
but we saw some white-fronted
geese and some other birds. We
visited a prairie a few miles
east of La Barca.

Account. Fine flock of about
50 working along whole.

Duero River, near La Barca
revisited.

Confirmed estimate of 50000
ducks within a prairie $\frac{1}{2}$ to
1 mile wide and several miles
long.

Pintail
Widgeon

Wright tern - Blk - crown - 2 or 3
Linnam teal - a few
Pigeon teal - Small groups
Jacava
Green-winged teal
Scaup - 3 prs.
Reynolds's m. eif. 1
Linnam teal
Fulica

Lake Chapala (delta of
Lerma & Duero Rivers)
Lesse (Wh.-fronted), 15 or 20
Jacava
Fulica
Linnam teal
Green-winged teal
Wilson
Pintail
Blk-necked stilt

Left La Brea 8.04 PM; arrived
Acapulco 8.45 3

Decotan, Jal.
Jan. 19. ~~La Bana~~
Left ~~La Bana~~ Decotan 8.35 AM;
arrived Guadalajara 10.35 PM.

Trav on Lake Chapala by motor
boat. Left 9 AM. and skirted
shore eastward part way
and entered a channel
forming one of the mouths
of the Tula River following
this up to a point where
we turned back down the
main channel and returned
across the lake to Decotan.

Delta. Evidently filling
gradually out into the
~~direction of Decotan lake.~~
Eventually the lake will
probably fill as far as
Decotan. At present the

Jan. 19 con.

many thousands of acres
of land partially covered
with water hyacinths
which lodge against bits
where they may become
permanently anchored. Get
round and flat for a few
miles north of here.

Ducks: Aggregating toward
even in groups of from
a few birds to hundreds
sitting on water water
hyacinths and the edges
of fast land or feeding in
shallow water.

Pale real
Pintail (most numerous)
Widgeon about 300
Dowitcher - Flock of ~~hundreds~~
Cinnamon teal 5

Jan. 19 con.
Fulica - hundreds in
plains in the great marsh,
usually
more or less mixed with
ducks.

Pelican - A few.
Wood ibis - About 10
along southern shore

Jacana (in marsh)

Gerre torquata.

Certhophaga sulcirostris

Night heron - In numbers
roosting in trees in culverts
of river at Ocotlan.

Santana } Ocotlan
Parkinsonia }

Synodorus - At Ocotlan.

Runways along field borders near
Juma River where Huesachi
Quiche Juma shelter. In a
number of places Bermuda grass.

clear
was cropped to the ground some
patches a foot across. He has
afforded evidence of regarded
reliable concerning identification.

Jan. 20 Guadaluajara,
Jal. (Sunday), Routine,
Went to Bull fight in afternoon.

Jan. 21,
Conferred with Vice Consul
Geo. H. Winters who later
introduced us to an ~~Englishman~~ ^{the} ~~at~~
~~British Vice Consul~~ McNeal an old
resident who gave us considerable
reliable information, as he is an
a sportsman.

Jackrains - said to be
numerous. McNeal killed a
mumbo last week not far
from Guadaluajara. 7

Jan. 21 con.
Fazana de luyallon. McNeal
says poor for ducks, More
or less saline.

Caroda pure, McNeal
has never seen any in this
region.

Mallard. McNeal says
extremely scarce if they
occur at all.

Duck decrease. Mc Neal
says steady decrease during last
17 years, especially marked
in recent years.

Ruddy. Mc Neal says very
excellent eating.

La Cuinega At east end of
Lake Chapala. McNeal says
originally comprised 40 square
mils. Dike built by Govt.

(Martin)
Jan. 22. ~~From~~ Guadalupe
to Manzanillo.

off. 10.10 a.m.

Arrived Manzanillo 7.15 p.m.

En route. Lower San Carlos

~~deserting~~ at least to Sayula
dominant veg. mosses,
organ cactuses, tree
Sporocarpium, huicahli.

Lagunas de Sayula. Early
reached from town of
Sayula. A good many
birds probably largely
shore birds, quails etc,
but some ducks. Water
clouded and alkaline
but some veg. to shores.

Jan. 22 con.
Spoonbill - About a

dozen puddings along
shore of Laguna de
Sayula a few miles
north of the town of
Sayula.

Avocets, About a dozen
seen at a small pond
a few miles north of
the Laguna de Sayula
and others at the lagoon
itself.

Pocket Gophers, workings in
sandy soil at station of
Zapotiltic, 25 miles south
of Ciudad Guzman.

Jan. 22 con
Dyffer. ^{fast land} goes down
to this level (1134 met.)
country becoming more
hoped, appears;
Mesquites left behind;

Atunquini. At start
of this name into the
horsh Barranca of
Atunquini.

Art trop tree (yd fl.)
appears in canyon of
Atunquini

Bambo - Sm. ~~at~~ ahead -
in canyon of Atunquini.

Suarumo. Barranca Atunquini.

Jan. 22 con.

Heartbark vine (red) tropical,
Appears in Barranca
Aluzquigui.

Plains of Icoliva, Veg. Many
large wild figs along water
course. Organ cactus,
Amisachi.

Wed

Jan. 23, Manzanillo, Colima.

Trip to lagoon near town.

Lesser scaup - most numerous

Ruddy - numerous

Pintail - a few Jan. 24 Three

Blue-winged teal - 1

Trip with Miguel Sancedo ^{partner} of
Gov. of Icoliva to various ^{points} in his
auto.

In morning visited points on lagoon

Jan. 24 con.

and natural palm forest. In this forest are small nut palms with fronds 35 ft. or more in length. Gathering nuts for oil is an extensive business.

Laguna San Pedro. Tide runs through narrow inlet and water spreads over broad mud flats comprising perhaps 150 acres. Water area includes channels of open water and broad mud flats with mangroves and flat tules along borders.

No ducks, but large numbers of other waterfowl.

Cormorants. Hunting in a line, ^{careful} ~~white~~ presenting a wonderful sight

White ibis. - dozens.

Large wh. egret - 500

Jan. 24 con.

Little wh. egret - a few

White Ibis - dozens

Sodwit - a few (on mud flats)

Willet - a few "

Wood Ibis - 3. about 2 dozen

Brown pelican - ~~dozens~~

Jan. 25, Manzanillo, Col.

Trip along Laguna de Manzanillo.

Few ducks noted and added little
to what we already know, but
place near town or west
end of lagoon where there
are some ditches.

Centrolobus. A common bird
of large size or loud calls;

One species - of large size
along coast, but not very
abundant.

Jan. 26, Manzanillo to
Guadalajara,

Off 7.50 A.M.

Arrived 4.40 P.M.

Notes

Pocket gopher. Digging ~~men~~
caleras on Plains of Colima.

Laguna of Sayula. Several small
groups of Spoonbills. Lagoon
several miles across and very
long, surrounded by mud flats in
places, and wire grass near
shore line in others. Several
flocks of willets.

Laguna de Zacoalco. Mile or
more wide - mud flats.

Spoonbills - small flocks

Jan. 27 (Sun), Guadalajara,
visited Market and found following:

Pintail - 1

Green-winged teal, 10

all of these at one little stand
outside on street corner.

Jan 28 (Mon) Left
Guadalajara en route back to
City of Mexico.

Conferred with U.S. Consul
Winter and received official
mail from Embassy.

Left Guadalajara, 6:15 P.M.

Jan. 29 (Tue). City of
Mexico.

Arrived 9:30 a.m.

~~Drop~~

Water area near airport. Went

Jan. 29 con.

out with an American who thought he could show us 10000 ducks at a place leased by him and associates near the airport. We found about 160 acres of land flooded from Chumbusco River but the only ducks were the following:

Pintail. About 60 at airport south of the city as described above.

Jan. 30. City of Mexico.

Conferred with R. Henry Norwick, Counselor of the Embassy.

with Norwick
visited foreign office and
conferred with Undersecretary Sierra
in afternoon.

Thurs
Jan. 31, City of Mex.
Visited San Juan de los Rios
market in morning.

Ducks in market. Total about
^{30 storks}
100, some of these had been
picked and carried blue
inspection work. Others with
feathers on unworked.

Pintail. - Mostly this
Spoonbill - about 25
Cinnamon teal - a few
Green-wing - a few
Canvas back - 1 only
these in market. Two white-fronted
in same market. Wing of one $16\frac{3}{4}$ in.
Confused with game officials
in afternoon.

Feb. 1 (Fri), City of Mex.
Ducks in market, visited
Mixed market in morning. Birds
at one stand, total about 100

Feb. 1 (Fri). con.

as follows:

Pintail - most numerous
Spoonbill - a few
Green-wing - about 25%
Cinnamon - a few.
to 5 (see)

Feb. 2 (Sat) Mex. City

On the 4th visited San Juan de
Tetlan market, about 100 ducks at
3 stands:

Pintail. Most abundant.

Spoonbill - about 20

Cinnamon teal - a few

Green-wing teal - a few

Blue-wing teal - a few.

Blue-wing teal not always seen
in markets.

Feb. 6 (Wed) City of Mex. to
Veracruz. A good trip. Saw
pyramids of near Teotihuacan,
Malinche at right, covered with
snow.

Fine views of all the high
mountains with snow fairly low
down.

Feb. 7 (Thurs). Veracruz.
stopped over and conferred with
Consul Williams, and a Dr. Mens.

Feb. 8 (Fri.) Veracruz to
Santa Feucia. Off ^{8.45} 9.05 AM train
left. Arrived Sta. Feucia 7.30 PM.

Heterogomys leucogaster -
within city limits of S.F.
in loose, sandy ground,
~~found~~ at intervals along way.

Sabanas, Los Robles scattered
at intervals nearly all the way.

Feb. 8 con.

Life Zones. And Lower Tropical
Vla to near Papaloapan River
where route enters more humid
territory. Some of And Trop. zone
indicators: Yel fl. tree (flowering
without leaves), ^{to evidence of dropping leaves} grasses. Humid Trop.
indicators: Absence of leafless condition
in forest, giant oaks, including
tall ceibas.

~~From~~ (Sat)

Feb. 9, Santa Juercia to
Minatitlan, D.C.

Off 3.10 P.M.

Arrived - 8.45 P.M. train late

Deer. At Sta. Juercia saw
small fawn, about a month old,
very red & spotted that I took to be
a mazama, indicating birth about
or soon after Jan. 1st.

Sta. Juercia does not appear to have

Mr. O. P. Beebe
Colonia Portada Norte
Minatitlan, Tl.,
In charge of saw factory &
El Aguila oil refinery.
Generally well informed in
regard to waterfowl.

Feb. 9 con.
changed during the year.

Hibneras changed to Ferrocarril
de Minatitlan, about 8 P.M. About
12 kilometers to Minatitlan.

Sun. Mon.
Feb. 10ⁿ - 11. Minatitlan.
Tl., General arrangements.

Feb. 12. ^{Tue.} Minatitlan Trip
up river to lagoons.
^{Laguna de la Lagartera}
Bluewing teal - About 1000
in shallow lagoon where lilies
grow abundantly. Surrounded by
grass-land.

Other lagoons with Laguna de la
Lagartera form a group about 2 x 4
miles in extent. Lagoons surrounded
by canals.

Geese (White-fronted). A small
flock seen by a native

Feb. 12 con.

at the Laguna de Ticomán, about
a few miles ^{south} from the Laguna de
le Segantón, reached by way
of the larger branch of the
river.

'Night heron (yd. cr), In lilies
in edge of lagoon.

Jack snipe, I shot 3 from
canals along shore of lagoon.
Killdeer - ^{several}
(wid)

Feb. 13, Minatitlán, Vt. to
Campeche, camp by plane.

Off 10:45 AM

Arrived Campeche 2 PM.

En route. Flew over a wonderful
swamp area, stopping at Villa
Herminia and Ceaman. Much of
the ground region is covered
with water with floating
vegetation covering the surface
forming a level, smooth appearance
at
2:3

Feb. 13 con.

of land, many lagoons and open
water areas in broad stretches
without trace of human occupation.
Look very favorable for ducks.

A place called
"San Joaquin", which
is near "Celestun",
for ducks and geese?

Feb. 14 (Thurs). Campsite to
Minda, Que.

off 1.40 P.M.

Arrived 7 P.M. on Ferrocarril Unidos
de Guatemala.

En route. A rather dull, monotonous
trip through Aired Trop. Zone. Food
growing veg. nearly everywhere
but a few large trees, cacti and

Old Featural Game
Dumb W, 15 miles from

Feb. 14 con.

actens here and there, *Limolana*
near surface, ~~but gophers~~

Gophers. Signs noted frequently
all along way, even in places
where limestone near surface.

Hills. A few low ridges, the
highest perhaps 500 ft. high.

San Augustino (Feb. 15 Fri)

J. A. Sanchez Alatorre
Calle 58a. No. 479

Merida, says:

Blowing - only tree that
comes here leaves in March.
"Zarzuela de alcazul"

scarp - 2 kinds, "pats negros"

pruntail - ("sarsen" maya)

Kind of soil - chivilú said
to live in gophers and burrows in
ground.

Feb. 15 cm.

R. Camara Peón -

Avenida Balón 502 -

Merida Yuc. Mex.

seen in Merida

Turkey cross. Two males are

clearly a cross between the
ocellated and domestic. They
are much larger than the
size of the domestic with
beards which are lacking
in wild birds, ledars only
a wild, but not so bright as
wild birds - Gobble a hoarse
sound. These birds are said to
have been bred with domestic
hens and the result was heavy
turkeys rather nondescript in
appearance.

Feb. 15 cm.

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Avenida balon 502 -
Merida Yuc. Mex
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wild, but not so wild as
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have been bred with domestic
hens and the result was heavy
turkeys rather nondescript in
appearance.

Feb. 16 (Sat.), Merida
to Chelem and return.

off 5 a.m.

Ret'd 12 M.

Accompanied by Dr. Augustin
~~Antunano~~ we drive to ~~the~~
Progreso and from there along
sand ridge between lagoon
and ocean to Chelem at
about 10 miles westward. This
is a small Maya village
where the people are engaged
largely in fishing during
the season.

En route. Fine road to
Progreso where we turned
west ~~at~~ over a fair dirt
road along coast. Road
runs through henequen
plantations and near coast

Feb. 16 con.

entire low belt becoming largely submerged during rainy season but now mostly dry. There in places cactal flats and small mangroves are now growing. At Progress the lagoon is crossed by a relatively short bridge, but to the east and west saline waters broaden in places to half a mile or more. Considerable aquatic vegetation in the shallow waters of the lagoon afford food for ducks.

Widgeon ^{mut. form} Two flocks, containing about 2000 each were seen forming rafts or closely set groups on the lagoon near Lehelu.

Duck hunters, here during winter season a number of

Feb. 16 con.

Fishermen are said to stop fishing and devote all of their time to duck hunting. Canoes are camouflaged with brush and pushed within gunshot of flocks of ducks at night. Ducks sell at 20 to 30 cents according to kind. They are commonly cooked in order to keep them in so warm a climate until they can be sold.

(Sun)

Feb. 17, Merida to Ruins of Chichén Itzá.

Made trip to ruins. Northern flowing and day cloudy and rather cold, but we had a good opportunity to look over ruins.

Feb. 18 (Mon), Merida to

7:30

Off. 5:30 a.m.

lyster caletur - "nabajuelo" ² ~~1~~

wood ibis - "galletana"

Scaup. - local name "voludo"
and in maya "hualpól"
"box'pats" (pron. sock)

Bluon - "arcta" in
Maya "chi chi pats"

Pintail - "satal"

Route. To Progreso and then
along beach continuously farther
by same road followed day
before yesterday to within 5
leagues of Celestun where we turned
back at duck hunter's camp.

Feb. 18 em.

Lesser scaup. At Point of Rocks on beach about 100 birds sunning themselves near a pool of sea water set off at low tide by sand. A few birds were flying along shore and ~~there~~ there joined larger groups forming rafts that rose and fell with the waves ~~in the rather shallow water~~ ^{in the rather shallow water} breaking several hundred yards off shore. These aggregated over 1000 birds, several hundred in a group.

Pintail. Several hundred seen in the aggregate made up of flocks of 50 to 100 flying over the sea along the coast. One flock apparently alighted in the distance, but wind blowing

Feb. 18 con.

and water breaking more than a quarter mile off shore owing to shallow depths. Maya Indian hunters say these birds ~~and~~ and scaups also sit off shore during the day and enter the lagoons to feed largely at night. These are the ducks most prized by hunters. We found two hunters parboiling ~~birds~~ ducks nearly all potatoes but a few blue-winged teal that they shot last night from a beach in the lagoon. The hunters had been unsuccessful for three days, but found these ducks feeding under shelter owing to norther which was blowing last night. Ducks very fat. Said to sell at 3.50 per dozen. About 50 killed by ten men last night.

Feb. 18th con.

Blue-winged teal. Apparently not
numerous. We did not actually
see any in lagoon but Dubois
showed several they had killed
along ^{with} the large ducks in the
shallow lagoons. Tue.

Feb. 19, Merida to
Campche by train.

off 6 a.m.

Arrived 11 a.m.

Feb. 20, ^{wed} in Campche

Feb. 21, ^{Thurs} Campche to
Villa Hermosa, Tlaxcala,

off 7:45 a.m.

Arrived 10:30 a.m.

Widgeon. 1 at Playa, Feb
Campche.

Feb. 28 con.

Topography. Near Campbecht
land surface as seen from
the air is a nearly uniform
pattern of low, mound-like
hills.

Topog. East of Laguna de
Peruinos ~~and~~ submarginal
lagoons apparently bordered
by mangroves & further inland
many small open water areas.
This large lagoon, extending for
perhaps 15 or 20 miles is connected
with the Laguna de Peruinos.

North of Leamm.

~~Mod flats~~

Topog. Mod flats covered
with green veg. left by low
water.

Feb. 21,

Topog. Manzana even large
woods near Canum.
Ruin water pea greenish,
Togon water dark, probably
due to tannin.

S. Medard's Roads.
Presidents at Villa Hermosa,

Piofozanda. On a wall of a stone
embankment painted appears the
words el alcohol y el clero
son los peores enemigos de la
humanidad.

Feb. 21 con.

Juvenio "El Hawaii"
Manuel Lopez Jr.

Lic. Humberto Guerra
Friso yral de G. ^{5am}
Phm 52, ~~Sec. 9 G. G. G. Sec. 9 G. G. G.~~

Lic. Adolfo Ortega Montano
Arquitecto # 3
México, D. F.
Economista

Feb. 22 (Fri), Villa
Hermosa, Tab.

Market, visited early in
morning (6 AM) with the
^{5.5.7} ~~President~~ Municipal, Sr. Rosales.
Found about 35 ducks on ⁸⁷
sale, all with entrails removed and ⁸⁷
with head and ft. but cooked. (over) ⁸⁷

Ducks in market of about
35 at 6 o'clock there were

as follows:

Scamp - 2 - Price 1.10 pair

Tree duck - 6 - Price 1.20 pair

Pintail - about 27 - ^{Pato floridano} 1.20 pair

all of these were brought from
Villa Unión.

"Andhu viuda" local name
price .50 pair.

Honduras

Puerto Castillo and
Trujillo - about 25 miles
out pintail & teal were
abundant 15 years ago
according to J. V. Flanary.
Teal most abundant.
and ducks believed to be
canoe backs, a few.

Gov. Manuel Castro.

Cristino Flores - Villa Unión
Alejandro " " - " "
Leonor men

Conferred with J. V. Flanary,
Gen. Mgr. of the Standard Fruit Co.

Compania Fruteras del Sur,
730 + 530 AM. 38

Toh

Feb. 23 (Sat.) Villa Hermosa,
 Trip into small lagoons on flood
 plain about 3 miles east of town,
 To. 6 A.M.; return 11 A.M.

Duck habitat: Shallow lagoons
 surrounded by dry mud and
 patches of Mimosa.
 Teal (*Anas penelope*). About 50
 in several bunches of varying
 from single birds or pairs to
 about 25. Feeding by tipping in
 shallow water.

Spoonbill, several seen,
 associated with teal in
 shallow lagoon. Feeding in usual
 manner.

Feb. 24 (Sun) Villa
 Hermosa to Villa Unión and
 return. Off about 8 A.M. by
 plane. Arrived Villa ~~Hermosa~~^{Unión}
 in about ¹⁵ minutes, by
 canoe to Laguna de Puerta,
 connected with Rio del Espino
 Lagoon - Home about 3 P.M.; return 4 A.M. by
 plane.

White heron - common
 Greater yellowlegs - a few.
 White Ibis "coco" - 3
 Lesser longlegs (common)
 Little green heron. (com.)
 Water hyacinths
 Sagittaria
 wh. water lily
 Clamshell (on banks)
 Acacia (lowland)
 Snake bird "pico fino"
 Light blue heron - common
 Potamogeton
 Killdeer - 2

Feb. 24 con.

Returned from canoe trip overland to Villa Union on horseback and by plane from there to Villa Hermosa.

Topog. Trip today near Villa Union was along water courses where the stream ran in places with considerable current between steep cut banks, these channels opening out into lagoons of varying character. We passed through one in which the water is entirely fresh and there are considerable areas of shallow water filled with *sagittaria*, *Potamogeton* and other plants. In another lagoon entered at its upper end over a portage, the canoe being

Feb 24
 Hunters at Villa Union
 say few ducks came ~~in~~
 this year as compared with
 previous years and they
 have been decreasing for
 a number of years.

Fulica. Hundreds of mudhens
 were seen in Laguna de Puente
 associated with the ducks
 which were very well and
 flew from considerable distance
 leaving the mudhens little disturbed.
 Mudhens are also shot for
 market.

Feb. 24 con.

dragged over round pole laid
 crosswise the ^{water} vegetation was
 different in part. No sagittaria
 or Potamogeton was noted
 but there were other water
 plants some of which were
 collected by G. J. ~~It was here~~
~~here~~ when the water in the
 river becomes low however,
 some salt water is forced in
 by the tide and has a killing
 effect on water hyacinths that
 it reaches. We saw many acres
 over which the hyacinths had
 a scorched appearance. If the
 salt water is not too strong
 or does not remain too long
 it is probable that many
 of these will recover.

Feb. 24 am.

Ducks. Four species seen
in Laguna de Puertí near Villa
Union as follows:

Lesser scaup - flocks of hundreds

Cinnamon - flocks of hundreds

Spoonbill - flocks of 20-50

Blue-winged teal - flocks of hundreds

The ducks would aggregate
several thousand. They appeared
to be remarkably wild.

Market hunters. Some the hunters
make a heap up large water
hyacinths and use them as a
blind. The hunters strip and push
the water hyacinths before them
using the plants as a support for
their guns in approaching the ducks
white geese. Hunters report flocks
of white geese as visiting this section
white fronted geese. Reported by hunters,
but none of either kind in two years.

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