

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)

Acotlan

Jan. 18 La Barca to
early morning trip with
Gil & Bro, was ^{Acotlan} barren & desolate
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
visited.

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

Pintail
W. Wilson

Night heron = Blk-crowned - dozens
Linnaman teal - a few
Pintail - Small groups
Jacava
Green-winged teal
Scaup - 3 prs,
Reynolds's grebe, 1
Linnaman
Fulica

Lake Chapala (delta of
Lerma & Duero Rivers)
Less (Wh.-fronted), 15 or 20
Jacava
Fulica
Linnaman teal
Green-winged teal
Widgeon
Pintail
Blk-necked grebe

Left La Brea 8.04 PM; arrived
Acapulco 8.45 3

Decotan, Jal.
Jan. 19. ~~La Bar~~
left ~~La Bar~~ Decotan 8.35 AM;
arrived Guadalajara 10.35 PM.

Went 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 there is

4

Jan. 19 con.

many thousands of acres
of land partially covered
with water hyacinths
which lodge against but
where they may become
permanent anchors. Get
round side of flat pit - see
that marsh later found.

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.

Pato real
Pintail (most numerous)
Widgeon about 300
Dowitcher - Flock of Pintail.
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

Right heron - In numbers
nesting in trees in culverts
of levee at Doyon.

Santara } Doyon
Parkinsonia }

Sigmodon - At Doyon.

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

clean
was cropped to the ground some
patches a foot across. He
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~~^{old}
~~British Vice Consul~~ McNeal ~~an~~ old
resident who gave us considerable
reliable information, as he is
a sportsman.

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

Jan. 21 con.
Jaguwa de Luyatton. McNeal
says poor for ducks, More
or less native.

Carvoda qure, 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. Mc Neal says
originally comprised 40 square
miles. 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 Sanitary

~~district~~ at least to Sayula
dominant veg. mosses,
organ cactuses, tree
Sporias, huasahu.

Laguna de Sayula. Easily
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 puddling along
shore of Laguna de
Sayula a few miles
north of the town of
Sayula.

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

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

Jan. 22 con
Dypan. ^{high level} goes down
to this level (1134 met.)
country below may
be pead, appears
Mesquites left behind.

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

Art. trop tree (yrd fl.)
appears in camp of
Atunquini

Bambo - Sm. at aband -
in camp of Atunquini.

Guarumo. Barranca Atunquini.

Jan. 22 con.

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

Plains of Colima, Mex. 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 Thurs

Blue-winged teal - 1

Trip with Miguel Sampedo, Sr. of
Gov. of Colima 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, best
place near town or west
end of lagoon where there
are some ditches.

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

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

Jan. 26, Manzanillo to
Guadalupe,

Off 7.50 A.M.

Arrived 4.40 P.M.

Notes

Pocket gopher. Digging near
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 Beltram
market in morning.

Ducks in market. Total about
³⁰⁰100, some of these had been
picked and carried blue
inspector 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.
Conferred 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 (Tue)

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 ~~9:05~~^{8:45} AM train
left. Arrived Sta. Feucia 7:30 PM.

Heterogomys lowreyi -
within city limits of S.F.
in loose sandy ground,
~~9:00~~ 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.

~~Arms~~ (set)

Feb. 9, Santa Juercia to
Minatitlan, V.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
la Sazan, reached by way
of the larger branch of the
river.

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

Jack snipe. Shot 3 from
canals along shore of lagoon.
Killdeer - ~~several~~
(wid)

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

Off 10:45 AM

Arrival Campeche 2 PM.

En route. Flew over a wonderful
swamp area, stopping at Villa
Hermosa and Carmen. 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.

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

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

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

off 1.40 P.M.

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

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

Old Teacup Game
700 ft W. Burlington

Feb. 14 con.

actives here and there, *Timonius*
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 Alvarado
Calle 58a. No. 479

Merida, says:

Plowing - only trail spot
comes here, leaves in March.
"Zarzuela de alcazul"

Scarp - 2 kinds, "pats negros"

pointail - ("sacsen" maya)

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

Feb. 15 cm.

R. Cámara 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 very
wild, but not so high 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.

R. Camaya Peón -
Avenida balon 502 -

Mexico

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, but are very
vivid, 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. 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 cm.

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

Green scaup ^(Mallard) Two flocks, containing about 2000 each were seen forming rafts or closely set groups on the lagoon near Lehelum.

Duck hunters were ^(at Lehelum) 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), Munda to

7:30
5:30 A.M.

Light caletur - nabajuela ² ¹
wood ibis - "galletana"
Scarf - local name "voludo"
and in maya "hualpól"
"fox" "pats" (from both)
Blue - sarca - in
Maya "chi chi pats"
in maya
Pintail - "sabal"

Route. To Progreso and then
along beach continuing 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} ~~in the~~ frequently 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 depth. Maya Indian hunters
say these birds ~~and~~ and scaups
also sit off shore during the
day and enter the lagoons to feed
freely at night. These are the
ducks most prized by hunters. We
found two hunters parboiling ~~with~~
ducks nearly all pintails but a
few blue-winged teal that they
shot last night from a boat
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 two men
last night.

Feb. 18 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 ditches in the
shallow lagoons. Tue.

Feb. 19, ^{Thurs} Merida to
Campabe by train.

off 6 a.m.
arr. 11 a.m.

Feb. 20, ^{Wed} in Campabe

Feb. 21, ^{Thurs} Campabe to
Villa Hermosa, ^{at} Tlaxco,

off 7:45 a.m.
arr. 10:30 a.m.

puller. 1 at lagoon & 1 at
Campabe.

Feb. 21 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 ~~is~~ 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 Leaman.

~~Mod flats~~

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

Feb. 21,

Topog. Manzana seen large
and near tannin.
Ruin water pea greenish,
Togon water dark, probably
due to tannin.

J. Medardo Rosales.
President of Villa Hermosa.

Piriforanda. 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. ~~Antonio~~ ^{50m}
Sr. ~~Gen. de~~ ^{50m}
Phm 52, ~~Sr. & Copiamun Sr. 50m~~

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
^{Sr. P.} ~~Presidente~~ 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 Union.

"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. G. Flanary.
Teal most abundant.
and ducks believed to be
canwarducks, a few.

Gov. Manuel Gastera.

Cristóbal Gálvez - Villa Union
Alejandro " " - " "
Leonor men

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

Conferred with
7:30 + 5:30 AM. 38

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

Duck habitat: Shallow lagoons
 surrounded by dry mud and
 patches of Mimosa. ^{Real (P. virgin.)}
 in ground, ^{scattered} bunches of reeds
 from single birds or pairs to
 about 25. Feeding by tipping in
 shallow water.

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

Feb. 24 (Sun) Villa
 Hermosa to Villa Unión and
 return. Off about 8 A.M. ³⁰
 plain. Arrived Villa ¹⁵
 in about ~~15~~ minutes, by
 canoe to Laguna de Puerto,
 connected with Rio del Espino,
 Lago - Heron about 3 P.M. return 6 P.M.
 White heron - common
 Greater yellowlegs - a few.
 White Ibis "coco" - 3
 Purple gallinule (common)
 Little green heron. (com.)
 Water hyacinths
 Sagittaria
 wh. water lily
 Lemnolote (on banks)
 Acacia (lowland)
 Snake bird "pico fino"
 Little 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 muskrats
 were seen in Laguna de Puete
 associated with the ducks
 which were very well and
 flew from considerable distance
 leaving the muskrats little disturbed.
 Muskrats are also shot for
 market.

Feb. 24 con.

dragged over round poles 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 of 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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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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