
I PROPOSE in the following paper to submit, in the form of a synoptical list, the present state of our knowledge of the Ornithology of Vancouver Island on the north-west coast of America, lying between latitude $48^{\circ} 16'$ and $50^{\circ} 58'$ N., and longitude $128^{\circ} 25'$ and $123^{\circ} 15'$ W. In general character the island is mountainous and densely covered with pine-forests, while many smaller islands lie off the coast, which is indented by numerous bays and inlets, the interior being intersected everywhere with rivers and lakes.

I have devoted myself to ornithology at various intervals during portions of nearly four years spent in the islands or the neighbouring territories (as Commander and Government Agent of the Vancouver-Island Exploring Expedition, and Botanist of the British-Columbia Expedition), paying in the course of that period every year a visit of longer or shorter duration to the colony. The summer of 1864 I spent wholly in the island, engaged in exploring the then unknown interior.

X While drawing for the most part on original material, I have not neglected what little has been written upon the birds of the country*. Mr. P. L. Selater has given (P. Z. S. 1859, pp. 235-237) a list of thirty-five species, collected by Captain Prevost. This list contains five species of which I never heard as Vancouver-Island birds: four of them I know as denizens of the mainland; but the fifth (*Oreortyx pictus*) I cannot, without

* 'Exploration of Vancouver Island,' 1864. 8vo (Colonial Blue Book); Proc. Roy. Geogr. Soc. 1865; Petermann's 'Geographische Mittheilungen,' &c. &c.