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A PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED NESTING COLONY OF THE YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON NEAR MULEGE, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

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In Baja California, breeding of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) has been reported from at least five locations, Islas San Benitos (28° 17' N, 115° 22' W), Laguna Ojo de Liebre (27° 45' N, 114° 10' W), Laguna San Ignacio (26° 50' N, 113° 10' W), Bahía Magdalena (24° 40' N, 112° 00' W) and Ensenada de La Paz (24° 20' N, 110° 22' W) (Wilbur 1987, Carmona et al. 1994, Massey and Palacios 1994, Howell and Webb 1995). Only the last is on the Sea of Cortéz side of the peninsula. During early April 1997, we observed six nests of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron under construction in the top of Mexican Fan Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*, plant names follow Roberts 1989) paralleling the north side of the estuary at Mulegé, on the east coast of Baja California Sur (26° 53' N, 111° 58' W). The nests were situated so we could not see their contents, so data on initiation of egg laying, clutch size, and fledging success were not obtainable. However, we saw the birds roosting and bringing nesting material to the nest sites throughout April. During the spring of 1998, we found 14 active nests in a dense stand of mangrove (*Avicennia germinans* and *Rhizophora mangle*) on the south side of the estuary plus three nests on the north side in Mexican Fan Palms. Although one of us has lived in Mulegé seasonally since 1979 these are the first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests we have identified. Two stick nests in mangroves were reported by a vacationer in 1990 but not identified. Small numbers of overwintering birds, both adults and immatures, occur in the estuary during late fall and early spring (Whitmore and Whitmore 1997). Owing to the fragility and disjunct distribution of wetland habitats in Baja California (Massey and Palacios 1994), further study of this newly formed colony is warranted.

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SECOND MAINLAND SPECIMEN OF THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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Since the first mainland record of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) for Baja California (Ruiz-Campos and Quintana-Barrios 1991), from the Sierra Juárez (32°04' N, 116°05' W; altitude 1370 m) on 15 September 1990 in coniferous forest dominated by *Pinus jeffreyi*, no specimens of this species have been collected in Baja California.

On 27 October 1996 we collected a Red-breasted Nuthatch climbing on dead trunks of a shack near the beach in Bahía Santa Rosalita, Baja California (28°39'32" N, 114°14'52" W), ca. 64 km southwest of Punta Prieta in the Vizcaino Desert district (Nelson 1921). The specimen (Univ. Autónoma de Baja California 859) is an adult male in nonbreeding condition.

With the Guadalupe Island population possibly extirpated (Howell and Webb 1995), the Red-breasted Nuthatch breeds south to southern Alta California, in San Diego County perhaps only irregularly (P. Unitt pers. comm.). It is subject to occasional massive irruptions that have taken this North American species as far from its normal range as Norfolk, England (Aley and Aley 1995).

Like several other montane forest birds, the Red-breasted Nuthatch irrupted on a large scale in the fall of 1996. Many were seen in the lowlands of southern Alta California throughout the winter of 1996–97, and birdwatchers from the United States observed at least 13 in Baja California, mostly immature individuals (five in the coastal lowlands, four in the Sierra Juárez, and four at Cataviña and Santa Inés [Ynez]). One at Bahía Tortugas, Baja California Sur, also in October, was even farther