

Nesting records of the Eared Grebe in Mexico.—To date the Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) is known to nest in Mexico only in northern Baja California (Check-list of North American birds, fifth edit., Baltimore, Amer. Orn. Union, 1957; Palmer, Handbook of North American birds, vol. 1, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press, 1962). Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore (Pacific Coast Avif., 29, 1950) also include the State of Chihuahua in the nesting range of species, based on two females in full alternate plumage in the R. T. Moore Collection, Occidental College, collected 20 July, at Lake Huanota (elevation 10,000 feet) by Chester C. Lamb, who recorded both specimens contained large eggs about ready to be laid. The Moore Collection contains no specimens from Sinaloa, as Friedmann et al. (ibid., p. 13) report.

These authors also state that the species was "collected in Veracruz in full breeding dress," but cite no dates nor locations. They probably refer to records from Lake Alchichica in the State of Puebla, where Eared Grebes are apparently permanent residents. Loetscher (Auk, 77: 22, 1955) noted 87 individuals on the lake, many in nuptial plumage on 20 July, but he saw none he considered half grown nor did he note other evidence of nesting. I have collected Eared Grebes on Lake Alchichica and on another nearby crater lake, Lake Preciosa (also called Laguna de las Minas) on the following dates: 15 February, 28 August, 2 and 22 September, and 18 December. The ovary of an adult female in prebasic molt taken 28 August had 3–4 corpus lutea; a male in similar molt taken 4 September was accompanied by a nearly, or fully grown young.

Lake Alchichica is an unusual habitat for the Eared Grebe, as it lacks emergent aquatic vegetation and its shores are closely grazed by livestock. Cactus and xeric shrubs 10 to 20 meters from the water's edge are the nearest cover, but a few rocks projecting from the lake's surface may offer nest sites. Hard-stemmed bullrushes scattered around the edge of Lake Preciosa would provide ample nesting sites.

The species has not been recorded previously from the State of Nayarit, where I collected two adults and an immature 23 May on Lake Santa Maria del Oro. One adult, a female with ovary measuring 16×8 mm was in the earliest stages of prebasic molt. An adult male collected from what was apparently a pair, was further along in this molt, and was a "flapper." His testes measured 5×3 and 4×1.5 mm. Lake Santa Maria del Oro is a crater lake rimmed with hard-stemmed bullrushes and occasional areas of cattail.

On 7 October 1964, I saw 6–8 adult Eared Grebes, including 3 families on Lake Madegelana, State of Jalisco, and collected a downy young weighing 86.1 g.

I compared the series of 14 Eared Grebes I collected in Mexico with the large series in the American Museum of Natural History, and found them morphologically inseparable from the North American nesting populations *Podiceps caspicus californicus*.

Scientific collecting permits were provided by the Department de Conservacion de Fauna Silvestre of the Republic of Mexico. Dean Amadon made available the facilities of the American Museum of Natural History. Specimens are on deposit at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and at Cornell University, Ithaca.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York 10021*.

The nest and eggs of the Chocolate Tyrant *Neoxolmis rufiventris* (Vieillot).—Although the Chocolate Tyrant is a common bird of Argentine Patagonia, its nesting has hitherto remained unknown. Johnson (Birds of Chile, vol. 2, Buenos Aires, Platt Establecimientos, 1967) states that it nests in Argentine Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, but ends the account with the contradictory remark that "we have no information as to nidification." Olrog (Las aves argentinas, Tucumán,

Universidad Nacional, 1959) also mentions that *Neoxolmis* nests on Tierra del Fuego and northward, but this is merely an educated guess, as the literature contains no description of the nest or eggs and the species could hardly breed anywhere but in Patagonia, which is its summer range.

While engaged in field studies on birds in Patagonia on the farm "Las Vegas" in the Argentine Province of Santa Cruz, I flushed a Chocolate Tyrant from a nest containing 2 eggs on 3 December 1967. The next day the parent was incubating 3 eggs; the eggs were taken and are now in the collection of A. W. Johnson of Santiago de Chile. Very pale pink with sparse blots of brick red and some pale gray spots, they measure respectively 28.0×21.4 , 28.7×21.4 , and 28.2×21.5 mm.

The nest was placed on the ground on the western slope of a small dry wash leading into the valley of the Coyle River. It was partly sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds by a very small *Berberis buxifolia* plant (known locally as "calafate"), but was completely exposed from above (Figure 1). The nest cup of dry grass and a few feathers measured 104 mm in diameter and 69 mm in depth and was set into a firm foundation of sticks, some as long as 120 mm, built up on the lower side of the slope so that the rim of the cup was level.

The habitat of *Neoxolmis* is typically flat, open, wind-swept pampa dotted with occasional *Berberis* bushes. The incubating parent on the nest is all but invisible, but as soon as it takes flight it becomes most conspicuous because of the striking chestnut, black, and white wing pattern; it is probably for this reason that *Neoxolmis* sits rather closely during incubation.

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Figure 1. Nest and eggs of the Chocolate Tyrant, *Neoxolmis rufiventris*.