

The ulna from Chimalhuacán has a length of 59.5 mm, somewhat longer than the maximum of four Fossil Lake ulnae measured by Howard, which ranged from 55.4–59.1, compared with a range of 55.6–67.8 in 77 Recent coots.

6. *Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin. American Avocet. Right humerus, lacking the proximal end. Distal width 10.5 (10.1–10.5 in Recent birds), least width of shaft 4.2 (4.0–4.3 in Recent). This is the first fossil record of this species for Mexico. It occurs as a winter visitor today.

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New tern records from Caribbean Honduras.—During the summer of 1970 one of us (CdeB) discovered a ternery at Sandy Cay, west-southwest of Utila Island, one of the Bay Islands, about 34 km off the north coast of Honduras (16° 9' N, 87° 00' W). On 19 June 1971 another of us (MR) noted there a number of eggs of two size classes and two downy chicks and (with MDFU) watched the colony closely from 28 June to 6 July. Incubating Least (*Sterna albifrons*) and Roseate (*S. dougallii*) Terns and adult Least feeding fish to downy young were observed during the day and about 20 immature Least Terns came in to roost in the afternoon. Of the 60–70 adult Least Terns one specimen was collected and, together with a piped but dead egg, deposited in the collections of the Honduran Flora and Fauna Survey of the University of Honduras at Tegucigalpa. An adult

Roseate Tern and shell halves of a newly-hatched Least Tern egg were sent to the United States National Museum.

Least Terns.—On 29 June, 27 nest scrapes were found, two with a single, newly-hatched chick, the rest with eggs. Clutch sizes: 12 nests with one, 14 with two, 1 with three eggs. On this day the total egg/chick ratio was 41:2. When the same nests were examined 1 July, one more chick had hatched; but 6 July the egg/chick ratio was 11:13.

Roseate Terns.—On 29 June, 7 of the 10 nests had clutches of one, 2 of two, and 1 contained three eggs. Of these, three eggs had hatched. On 6 July there were still nine eggs; the chick count was not completed because they ran to the waterline and hid.

On 23 July 1971 not a single egg or fledgling was seen on the ternery, but adults of both species were still roosting there and carrying small fish to the point. On 8 August two clutches of two and two clutches of one Least Tern eggs were tallied. One single Roseate Tern egg, another newly-broken egg with live embryo, and one broken, dried egg—three clutches in all—were found. Adults were attending the nests, and about a dozen fledged juvenile terns were present.

According to Joseph Jackson of Utila Cays, owner of Sandy Cay, "those birds have been nesting on the Cay for as long as anyone can remember"—which other Utilians confirm. Every year around the first of July an excursion is organized in Utila to visit Sandy Cay for a picnic and to collect the tern eggs, which are considered a delicacy. The owner of the cottage on Sandy Cay prevented this in 1971 for the first time in many years. In view of this annual destruction and because of the small size of both colonies, especially that of the Roseates, both seem unlikely to have survived without outside reinforcements. We may surmise that hitherto undetected colonies exist off the Honduran coast; William Lady of Tequicigalpa (pers. comm.) knows of a colony of small terns near Little Hog Island, about 50 km east of Utila Island.

Both species have long been known to breed on many islands of the West Indies and Caribbean South America, but the only records from the waters off Middle America are over 100 years old and from British Honduras, some 100–160 km northwest of Sandy Cay (Salvin, *Ibis*, 6: 384, 1864). The Least Tern colony represents the first reported nesting from Honduras; the only previous specimen came from the Pacific coast of Honduras where it is a migrant (Monroe, *Ornithol. Monogr.* No. 7, 1968). The Roseate Tern record is the first definite report of nesting off the coast of Middle America (though Salvin (*Ibis*, 2, New Ser.: 199, 1866) collected one of a small group that he believed were preparing to nest on Grassy Cay, British Honduras), and the specimen is also the first taken in Honduras.

Further field work (MDFU) revealed three other tern species whose occurrence is of interest. On 28 June 1971 an immature Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) tried three times to alight among the Least and Roseate Terns roosting in the Sandy Cay ternery between 17:00 and 18:00, but was repelled each time. The only previous record of this species for Honduras dates from the late 1860s (Sclater and Salvin 1870, fide Monroe loc. cit.) from the mainland coast.

On the same date a Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) in black-capped breeding plumage was seen on the reef around Sandy Cay, Utila Island. Another, seen 3 July 1971 between George's and Henry's Cays of Guanaja Island, Bay Islands, was in winter plumage.

On 28 June 1971 a mummy of an adult Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) was picked up on the beach of Southwest Cay, Utila Island, and deposited in the collections

of the Honduran Flora and Fauna Survey. This is the second Honduran specimen and the first record from Utila. The species might have nested on nearby Roatan Island during the last century according to Oates, 1901 (fide Monroe loc. cit.). The only prior specimen Monroe mentioned is from the distant Swans Islands.

The first author did his field work while holding a Fulbright-Hays Lectureship to Honduras.

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A second brood attempt by the Purple Martin.—Throughout its range the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is known to raise only one brood. Most reports of second broods actually refer to late nesters occupying the nesting site after the previous occupants departed. Banding or otherwise marking the birds is usually considered the only incontrovertible way of determining whether or not a pair of martins were the same individuals that had reared the first brood. In 1970 in north central Texas, I observed a definite attempt, I consider, by martins to raise a second brood. Although the birds were not banded or otherwise artificially marked, an unusual behavioral characteristic display by the male and distinctive brownish markings on the breast of the female helped to identify these individuals. This male had a curious habit of swooping and diving at any human being or dog or cat that passed by the yard. Sometimes he came within a few inches of one's head. Never before or since have I seen a martin act in this manner.

In May 1970 three pairs of martins occupied a small six-room martin box in my garden. On 11 June three young successfully fledged from the nest of one of the pairs. About 10 days later a pair of martins began building in the same compartment. The male performed the characteristic dive on passersby that I had noted earlier, and the female had the same distinctive brownish breast markings. After many hours of watching these birds during both nestings, I am convinced that these were the same individuals in both instances.

By the time the eggs of this second nesting were laid it was 27 June, and all the other martins had left with their young. Premigratory flocking was already under way, and few visitors appeared at the colony. With each passing day the male of this pair remained absent for longer periods of time, and his visits to the nest and incubating female dropped to once a day until 13 July when he did not appear. On 14 July the female deserted the nest and was not seen again that year. On examining the nest later I found four eggs, all with fully developed embryos that would probably have hatched within a day or two.

In this part of the Purple Martin's range weather conditions during July are quite adequate in terms of temperature and food supply for rearing a brood of young. But martins are social birds, and apparently need the stimulus of the presence of other martins to breed successfully. The absence of this stimulus, especially late in the season, seriously weakens the breeding drive, and may be an important factor in preventing double-broodedness in the Purple Martin in the southern parts of its breeding range.

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