

rubias. Most of the birds were flying at elevations between about 150 and 300 m above ground, but others were at higher altitudes. They passed in long, irregular lines and occasionally soared or formed ragged "kettles." By 11:00 only a few stragglers were visible. During this period of about 20 minutes, at least 3600 raptors had gone by, the total being composed of approximately 800 Turkey Vultures, 300 Broad-winged Hawks, and 2500 Swainson's Hawks. From one to possibly three Short-tailed Hawks, two Marsh Hawks, one Osprey, several Sparrow Hawks, and a number of unidentified hawks accompanied this movement.

The Swainson's Hawks streamed over at the lowest altitude in an irregular band about 100–200 m wide; the Turkey Vultures and Broad-winged Hawks spread out at higher levels on a front about a kilometer wide. Although there was some intermingling of the three most numerous species in this flight, the majority of the birds stayed in fairly homogeneous species groups. The comparatively low altitude at which most of them were flying was likely a result of the head wind. Many of the Swainson's Hawks were in adult or subadult plumage, and there was a sprinkling of dark individuals, probably many of these being immatures.

Possibly most of the raptors in this migration moved southward from the United States on the favorable northerly winds during the first few days in October following the above-mentioned cold front. During the three or four days preceding their passage through southern Veracruz on 8 October, however, low pressure, partly cloudy skies, and generally moderate south or southeast winds prevailed over northern and central México. Thus the birds' progress southward into México perhaps was slowed somewhat by head winds, and they also may have been delayed for a short time by scattered areas of rainfall to the northwest in Veracruz. Although fall hawk flights in northeastern United States have been recorded during southerly winds (Broun, *Atlantic Naturalist* 6:105–112, 1951; Mueller and Berger, *Wilson Bull.* 73:184, 1961), especially at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, movements under such conditions apparently do not usually involve high numbers or concentrations of birds. The magnitude and concentration of this Veracruz migration against the wind may not be an unusual occurrence in México and Central America in fall, considering the nature

of certain meteorological factors in low latitudes. The pronounced continental constriction in this part of México and the comparative narrowness of the lowlands in the area may also be influencing factors. In view of present knowledge concerning raptor migrations in such regions, I think that more observations and analyses of these movements would be of value.

The following additional sight observations of migrants in Veracruz I believe are of significance. They deal with several species for which there are apparently few published reports for the state. Loetscher (*Auk* 72:14–54, 1955), Coffey (*Auk* 77:288–297, 1960), Dickerman and Warner (*Wilson Bull.* 73:336–340, 1961), or Andrlé (*Condor* 68:177–184, 1966) have published previous records for them.

Falco peregrinus. Peregrine Falcon. We saw one over the marshes at Lerdo de Tejada northwest of the Sierra de Tuxtla on 3 May 1952 and another in the same locality on 10 February 1962.

Gallinula chloropus. Common Gallinule. On 19 May 1951 there was one bird at a marshy pond on the south side of highway 180 a short distance southeast of Alvarado, and five were at the same place on 13 March 1960.

Erolia fuscicollis. White-rumped Sandpiper. Four birds were closely observed on the Gulf shore near Alvarado on 19 May 1951.

Micropalama himantopus. Stilt Sandpiper. On 19 May 1951 an individual was at the pond southeast of Alvarado, and two were also seen there on 3 May 1952.

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson's Phalarope. Two were observed at the above-mentioned pond southeast of Alvarado on 3 May 1952.

Larus philadelphia. Bonaparte's Gull. One was observed as it flew close to the ferry at Alvarado on 6 November 1962. It was in immature plumage.

Gelochelidon nilotica. Gull-billed Tern. A group of eight on 13 March 1960 and another of 15 on 1 March 1962 were flying over the waterway through the marsh at Lerdo de Tejada.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM ZACATECAS, MÉXICO

J. DAN WEBSTER

California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California

and

Hanover College
Hanover, Indiana 47243

The west-central Mexican state of Zacatecas is relatively unexplored ornithologically. References to my own earlier work there are given in Webster (1958, 1959). On more recent trips, I spent 1–3 August and 1–2 September 1959; 10–16 August 1961; 2 January–12 February 1964; and 13 June–24 July 1964, in the state, visiting all of the major sections and habitats, and reporting only some winter and breeding-season censuses (Webster 1964 and 1964a). On

various trips my companions were Raymond Bandar, Bill S. Brinkley, Gwilym S. Jones, and Jackson R. Webster. Financial assistance was received from the National Science Foundation in 1959, from the Hanover College Faculty Research Fund in 1961, and from the Frank M. Chapman Fund in 1964. The Dirección General de Forestal y Caza of México courteously granted permits for each of my trips. The following list includes only those forms for which my findings represent new information. An asterisk (*) indicates that a specimen of the species has not previously been reported from Zacatecas. All specimens are in the California Academy of Sciences collection unless otherwise noted.

**Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*. Snowy Plover. Three were seen and an adult female collected 3 August 1959. This was on the sandy shore of a shallow lake 5 miles east of Noria de Angeles, in southeastern Zacatecas; the country around was cactus-acacia grassland.

**Erolia minutilla*. Least Sandpiper. An adult female was taken from a flock of 40 on 3 August 1959, at the lake near Noria de Angeles. On 8 January 1964 a single bird was seen with other shorebirds at a small tank in the desert, 20 miles southwest of Grunidora, in the eastern part of the state. Another adult female was collected from two seen 16 July 1964, at Laguna Valderama.

**Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. Apparently a common migrant and sparse winter visitant. On 19 January 1964, there was one at a reservoir 5 miles south of Chalchuites. At various ponds and rivers in western Zacatecas in July, August, and September I saw from one to six a day in four different years. Brinkley took a female on the Rio Juchipila near Moyahua, on 14 August 1961.

**Crotophaga sulcirostris*. Groove-billed Ani. Common resident about the cultivated fields of the tropical deciduous woodland areas in the valleys of the Rio Juchipila and Rio Tlaltenango, below about 5600 feet. Seen in the Juchipila Valley in January 1964, June and July 1954 and 1957, and September 1955; also seen 3 July 1954, near Momax. A female was taken 3 miles north of Moyahua, 31 January 1964.

**Asio otus tuftsi*. Long-eared Owl. Seen only 27 January through 30 January 1964, at Santa Rosa, where a group of three to five birds roosted in a densely wooded ravine. A female was taken on 27 January.

Colaptes cafer. Red-shafted Flicker. Common resident in the pine-oak woodland, cactus-acacia grassland, and desert areas. Two specimens from western Zacatecas tend slightly toward *C. c. nanus* in paler, grayer color, but are nearer *collaris*; three specimens from near Concepción del Oro, in the extreme eastern part of the state, are good examples of *nanus*, being very pale and gray, as well as small. The Mexican Check-list (Miller *et al.* 1957: 25-26) ascribes *collaris* (including integrades with *mexicanus*) to the state in general, but also lists a specimen as "*mexicanus*—Valderama, July, breeding."

**Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A female was taken (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) on 14 January 1964, in pine-oak woodland, 8 miles south of Chalchuites. Another was seen there on 17 January.

Dendrocopos scalaris. Cactus Woodpecker. Common resident in cactus-acacia grassland and desert areas. Whereas specimens from western Zacatecas are *D. s. centrophilus*, those from the east (three specimens, Sierra Rocamonte and 20 miles southwest of Concepción del Oro) are nearer *D. s. giraudi*, and much too dark for *D. s. symplectus*.

Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus. Kiskadee Flycatcher. Although the type locality of *P. s. derbianus* (Kaup 1851) is Zacatecas, there are no records from the state save for the type, which was taken by Wollweber in the 1840s. A male taken by Brinkley at Canyon (3 miles south of Moyahua), 12 August 1961, is an extreme example of *derbianus* in both color and size (wing 129 mm). The species was seen only in the tropical deciduous woodland areas at Momax on 18 July 1954, and various places near the Rio Juchipila from Juchipila down to Santa Rosa (8 miles south of Moyahua) in June and July 1957, August 1961, and January 1964.

**Corvus corax sinuatus*. Common Raven. Probably the most widely distributed species in the state; uncommon or absent only in some extensive grassland areas. Jones collected an adult male 10 miles northeast of Zacatecas City, 11 February 1964.

**Calocitta colliei colliei*. Magpie Jay. Not seen

alive, but a freshly killed female was presented to me by a Mexican friend on 27 January 1964; he had killed it from a small flock in the barranca of the Rio Juchipila about 9 miles south of Moyahua and 1 mile southwest of our Santa Rosa camp. Presumably the species was vagrant from the arid tropical zone, farther down the river; Selander and Giller (1959) recorded it from the Barranca Oblatos, Jalisco, only 12 miles south of this point, although 2000 feet lower.

**Myadestes obscurus cinereus*. Brown-backed Solitaire. A female was taken on 27 January 1964 at our Santa Rosa camp, at 5600 feet in the upper edge of the tropical deciduous woodland, and another was seen at the same spot on 28 and 30 January. Probably this represents altitudinal migration, because summer records are all from barranca-rims in humid parts of the pine-oak association, and at elevations of 6900 to 8200 feet in various localities in western Zacatecas.

**Sialia currucoides*. Mountain Bluebird. A male was taken at Laguna Valderama on 5 February, and from 3 to 16 were seen per day on the prairie there from 2 to 10 February 1964.

Phainopepla nitens nitens. Phainopepla. I previously reported (Webster 1959) the summer distribution of this species in the deserts, brushlands, and oak woodlands, but was unable to make a subspecific identification. In 1964, one was seen in cactus-acacia grassland at El Cruz on 10 February, and from one to four per day were seen in sparse oak woodland about Laguna Valderama, 2 to 10 February; three were collected. The two adult males have long enough wings (98, 99 mm) to place them definitely with the southern race.

**Dendroica townsendi*. Townsend's Warbler. In 1964 only one was seen—a male, collected (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) on 14 January, in pine-oak woodland 8 miles south of Chalchuites. In 1955 several were seen each day in the pines on Monte Escobedo on 17, 18, and 19 September, and one in the junipers on Cerro Gordo on 29 September.

**Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*. Pileolated Warbler. An immature female was taken on 2 September 1959 in willows by a creek, 9 miles west of Zacatecas City. In 1955, Allan Phillips and I found the species common in western Zacatecas, recording from one to 11 a day on 6 to 29 September, in varied habitats. In 1964 one was seen on 27 January and two on 30 January, in tropical deciduous woodland at Santa Rosa.

**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Yellow-headed Blackbird. An adult male (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) with testes only 3 mm long was taken by Jackson Webster at Laguna Valderama on 15 July 1964. The species is present in western Zacatecas as a sparse vagrant in July; my records are of small groups or single birds from various localities, all near ponds or rivers, in 1954, 1957, and 1964, on dates from 13 to 20 July. My other observations from the state are of large migrating flocks, 8 to 24 September 1955, in several localities in the western part of the state.

Spinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Apparently only a winter visitant; the race *macropterus* has previously been recorded by Ridgway (1901), from San Juan Capistrano on the basis of specimens taken 22 August 1897, by Nelson and Goldman. Three specimens were taken on 19 January 1964, in a scrub-oak canyon 6 miles south of Chalchuites, from large flocks, which were also seen at the same place on 17 January. Of the specimens, one female is *S. p. macropterus*,

but one male and one female are clear-cut examples of the northern race *pinus*.

Volatinia jacarina diluta. Blue-black Grassquit. I have previously noted (Webster 1958) the distribution of this species, in summer, in the agricultural fields of the low, tropical valleys, but I was unable to give a subspecific identification on the basis of an adult male specimen. Two females taken by Brinkley at Canyon on 13 August 1961 illustrate well the pallor of the northwestern race described by van Rossem (1938).

**Melospiza kieneri kieneri*. Ground Sparrow. An adult male was taken on 10 July 1964, at Santa Rosa. In this same area of essentially tropical deciduous woodland, from one to six birds were seen each day, 29 June to 1 July 1957, 24 to 28 January 1964, and 2 to 10 July 1964. Here a nest was found with two eggs; it was 24 inches above the ground in a juniper sapling under the shade of *Bursera* and juniper trees. The adult was not incubating and the eggs were cold on 9 July, but incubation was underway on 10 July. In similar habitat above Canyon a single bird was seen on 13 August 1961.

**Passerculus sandwichensis*. Savannah Sparrow. All records were in the short-grass prairie of Laguna Valderama: one or two each day, 15, 16, and 17 July 1952, and 14 and 18 July 1964; several each day (up to a maximum of 20 on 9 February), 2 to 10 February 1964. Seven February specimens were taken; six are of the race *nevadensis*, while one is *brunnescens*.

Spizella passerina. Chipping Sparrow. The breeding form, as I have previously reported (Webster

and Orr 1954a), is dark, gray, *S. p. mexicana*, not the ruddy-backed race *atremaeus* as stated in the Mexican Check-list (Miller *et al.* 1957:387). I have recently compared five summer adults, a September immature, and a January adult of the former subspecies from western Zacatecas with extensive series from other states. Five specimens (14 January to 8 February 1964), from Laguna Valderama and near Chalchuites, are well-marked examples of the pale gray race *boreophila*.

**Atimophila cassinii*. Cassin's Sparrow. Three were seen and two singing males collected at 7100 feet in cactus-acacia grassland 10 miles south of Pinos, southeastern Zacatecas, 2 August 1959. The specimens had testes 8 and 7 mm long, respectively, and each had the cloacal protuberance large and full of sperm. On 3 September 1955 Allan Phillips and I saw five Cassin's Sparrows, and Phillips collected two—a molting adult male and a young male in mostly juvenal plumage. This was at 6500 feet in acacia grassland 39 miles northwest of Zarca, northern Durango. Both these records suggest breeding.

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957:603) lists the southern edge of the breeding range of Cassin's Sparrow as northern Chihuahua, southern Coahuila, and northern Tamaulipas. The Mexican Check-list (Miller *et al.*, 1957:379) also includes my own San Luis Potosí record (Webster and Orr 1954) as a July record without certain evidence of breeding. It seems probable that Cassin's Sparrow breeds sparsely throughout the high grasslands of northern and central Mexico.

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FIRST RECORD OF THE GYRFALCON IN IDAHO

J. DAVID LIGON

Department of Biology
Idaho State University
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

On 26 February 1968 falconers R. L. Siler and T. N. Smith of Pocatello captured a gray-phase Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) in open farming country eight miles east of American Falls, Power County, Idaho.

This represents the first record of this species in Idaho (T. D. Burleigh, *in litt.*). A nylon-leader noose carpet placed over a pigeon that the falcon had killed earlier was used to effect the capture. The falcon weighed 1.446 kg when taken and was in first basic (= first winter) plumage. There is no evidence that it had previously been in captivity. I wish to thank Siler and Smith for allowing me to note this record. (Present address: Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.)

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