

TWO RECENT RECORDS OF NEOTROPICAL EAGLES IN SOUTHERN VERACRUZ, MEXICO¹

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On 20 March 1985, between the towns of Venustiano Carranza and Magallanes in the los Tuxtlas mountains near Volcan Santa Marta (18°19'N, 94°96'W) we encountered a farmer that had killed an Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*). This bird was shot at the edge of the forest in a disturbed area with grass and secondary vegetation, at approximately 200 m above sea level. The vegetation in this region is named "Bosque Tropical Perennifolio" (Rzedowski 1978) (tropical evergreen forest).

This specimen was a male that weighed 1,150 g. Stomach contents included feathers and bird bones. Based on the dimensions of wing bones (ulna and radius), trachea rings, and the color and form of the feathers, we suspect the prey was a Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*). Furthermore, we found two species of ectoparasites on the eagle's feather, one was a mallophagan, *Menacanthus stramineus*, that feeds on pieces of feathers and scales of skin. The other parasite was a blood-sucking fly (family Hippoboscidae) *Pseudolynchia canariensis* (Ross et al. 1982).

During our previous field work from 2 to 20 March 1985 we saw and heard what we believed was an eagle flying and calling several times over the canopy of the forest. These observations occurred in the Santa Marta Volcano, at about 860 m above sea level at the edge of tropical evergreen forest and mesophilus forest (Rzedowski 1978).

The Ornate Hawk-Eagle is uncommon in Mexico, where it is a resident in tropical and subtropical zones of the states of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Quintana Roo, Yucatán, and Colima (Friedmann et al. 1950, Iñigo 1984). It is possible that the range extends to Campeche, Tabasco, Guerrero, and the hills of the west coast of Michoacán but no records are known. This eagle inhabits evergreen tropical forest (tropical rain forest), the edges of mesophyllous forests (cloud forest), tropical deciduous forest (deciduous seasonal forest), and sometimes the edge of open areas like grasslands (Wetmore 1965, Brown and Amadon 1979, AOU 1983, Iñigo 1984).

Records for Ornate Hawk-Eagles in Veracruz state

have come from Jalapa, Actopan, Barra de Santana, Mirador, Uvero, Teotacingo, Achotal, Paso Nuevo, Cerro Balzapote, Veracruz, and Reventadero (Loetscher 1941, Friedmann 1950; and specimens in: Colección Ornitológica, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; United States National Museum of Natural History; Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History; James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History and American Museum of Natural History). The ornithological studies of the Sierra de los Tuxtlas, Veracruz by Edwards and Tashian (1959) and Andrlé (1967) do not report this species in the area.

A Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) also was obtained that had been shot by a farmer in southern Veracruz in the Minatitlán municipality, close to López Arias Ejido (17°43'N, 94°00'W). The remains were collected by Gilberto Silva and Jorge Benitez from Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de la Universidad Veracruzana on 5 May 1985.

We inspected the remains and determined that they were from an immature eagle. All feather tracts were in molt, particularly the central rectrices. The bird was shot at the edge of evergreen tropical forest and grassland in secondary vegetation, between 50 and 200 m above sea level.

The Harpy Eagle is an endangered species (Villa 1978, King 1979) in Mexico and is a resident bird in the tropical zone of the states of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Tabasco, and Chiapas, and apparently in Campeche where it inhabits the less disturbed areas of evergreen tropical forest (Friedmann et al. 1950, Sutton 1951, Paynter 1955, Brown and Amadon 1979, AOU 1983, Iñigo 1984). This species has been recorded in Veracruz in Almoloya, Mirador, Orizaba, Jesús Carranza, and Río Coatzacoalcos (Loetscher 1941, Friedmann 1950, Friedmann et al. 1950, Lowery and Dalquest 1951; and specimens in Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, United States National Museum of Natural History, and University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History).

These eagles and many other neotropical raptors in Mexico are declining in numbers mostly due to forest destruction, hunting pressure, pesticide pollution, and wildlife trade. Their endangered populations are dramatic examples of the depletion of biotic resources in tropical countries such as Mexico. Although these eagles are protected by Mexican laws, more efforts are necessary from the government and people to conserve Mexico's diverse wildlife resources.

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UNUSUAL RECORDS FROM COAHUILA, MEXICO¹

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Key words: *Parasitic Jaeger; Pomarine Jaeger; Surf Scoter; Hooded Merganser; Wood Duck; Common Loon; Winter Wren.*

For more than 25 years I have been assembling a collection of birds in Mexico. Of the approximately 1,000 species that occur in Mexico, I have obtained specimens of 625 which are on exhibition in "El Salon de las Aves" (Calle Real 603, Colonia Jardines de Valle,

25160 Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico). Among these specimens are the following from the State of Coahuila in north-central Mexico.

On 16 September 1986, I collected an immature male Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) on the Tulillo Reservoir (Presa del Tulillo), located approximately 72 km west of Saltillo in the Paila Desert. This locality is more than 350 km from the Gulf of Mexico. The jaeger attracted my attention by its vigorous attacks on several ducks, herons, cormorants, a curlew, and a female Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

At the same locality on 2 November 1986, I collected an immature male Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius po-*

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