

of Vertebrate Zoology; Lourdes Navarajo from Colección Ornitológica del Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Biologists Francisco García, Ernesto Rodríguez, Gilberto Silva, and Jorge Benitez from Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de la Universidad Veracruzana; James Dean from United States National Museum of Natural History; Raymond Paynter from Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Richard Sloss from American Museum of Natural History; and Kevin Winker from James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History for the facilities and information on specimens. Pablo Martínez Labad from Escuela de Estudios Superiores Cuatitlán, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, identified both ectoparasites; Mark Fuller for reviewing our manuscript. This research was supported by the World Wildlife Fund, U.S. appeal, and the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos (INIREB).

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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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marinus). Both jaegers were in good condition with moderate fat deposits.

The two species of jaegers are known from coastal records (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, Distributional check-list of the birds of Mexico. Pacific Coast Avifauna 29:102-103, 1950), but these specimens seem to be the first inland records for Mexico.

On 31 November 1986, at Presa del Tulillo and the nearby Presa de El Gato, approximately 1 km southeast of the town of Hipolito, I collected a female Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), and a female Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Except for the Wood Duck, these seem to be the first records for this inland region of northern Mexico.

Two specimens of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) have been collected in Coahuila. On 18 March 1979, I collected a male (?) Winter Wren near a small creek in an otherwise arid area north of the village of Santo Domingo, 35 km north of Saltillo. On 20 November 1986, I collected a female Winter Wren near a small creek in a montane pine forest, approximately 40 km northeast of Saltillo. There are records for the Winter Wren from southern California to southern Texas (AOU Check-list, 6th ed., 1983), but there seem to be no previous records for Mexico.

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FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST OF THE OLIVE FINCH, *LYSURUS CASTANEICEPS*¹

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Key words: *Lysurus*; *Emberizinae*; Ecuador; nest; Atlapetes.

The genus *Lysurus* contains two poorly known, generally uncommon species of finch that inhabit humid lower montane forests, *L. crassirostris* (Sooty-faced Finch) of Costa Rica and Panama and *L. castaneiceps* (Olive Finch) of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Little has been published on the natural history of *L. crassirostris* (Slud 1964) and even less is known of *L. castaneiceps*. Aside from one description of the eggs of the latter, the nesting biology of *Lysurus* is completely unknown. We made the following observations on the nest and eggs of *L. castaneiceps* in June 1984 in the Cordillera de Cutucú, Province of Morona-Santiago, eastern Ecuador (02°39'S, 78°05'W), where this species was recorded almost daily in small numbers at 1,075 m in tall humid forest.

On 18 June, Gill flushed an unidentified bird from a large rock overhanging a shallow side channel of the Río Chiguasa, on the trail from Logroño to Yaupi. By carefully inspecting the rock face, Gill located a moss nest containing two eggs about 1.5 m above the water. An occupant of the nest was flushed on at least two subsequent occasions by members of our field party

but was never satisfactorily identified. Schulenberg visited the nest site after nightfall on 20 June and collected the incubating bird, a female *L. castaneiceps*, and the two eggs (Academy of Natural Sciences 177066).

The nest, a completely domed structure with a side entrance, was placed at the base of a slender fern in a small niche of a large, moss- and fern-covered rock (Fig. 1). Green moss composed the outer wall of the nest, and although the nest was located in an exposed position over the stream, the nest's cryptic color and texture so perfectly matched the vegetation growing on the rock that the nest was quite well-concealed. Dry leaves lined the inside of the nest. The outside dimensions of the nest were 14 × 16 cm (width by depth), with the entrance 7 × 6 cm (width × height).

The eggs were immaculate white and measured 24.3 × 17.8 and 25.4 × 17.6 mm (length × width). These eggs are quite different from the description given by Sclater and Salvin (1879:441) for this species: "Eggs . . . white, thickly spotted at the larger end with red." The eggs that Sclater and Salvin attributed to *L. castaneiceps* were contained in a shipment from Colombia of study skins, nests, and eggs, in which the nests were numbered by the collector to correspond to the specimen of the bird. We suspect that some error was made, either by the collector or by Sclater and Salvin, in the numbering or subsequent matching of the specimens. We note with caution, however, that the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology contains an egg attributed to *L. castaneiceps* (but otherwise

¹ Received 3 October 1986. Final acceptance 28 January 1987.