

ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM THE DISTRITO FEDERAL, MEXICO, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE HYBRID *SPIZELLA*¹

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Wilson and Ceballos-Lascurain (The birds of Mexico City, BBC Printing & Graphics, Burlington, Ontario, 1986) have published a useful annotated checklist of the birds of the Federal District, or Distrito Federal (DF), Mexico. Several specimens in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM) appear to supplement their data, and are listed here. All were collected by Wilmot W. Brown. Brown's data are not always exact; "Tlalpan" and "Contreras" may refer to the mountains above these towns, and dates must be considered inexact, but nevertheless within a few days of the actual collecting date (A. R. Phillips, pers. comm.). The only one of Brown's collecting localities for which altitude is included in the label data is Ixtapalapa, for which he gives, variously, 7,500 to 7,700 feet. Specimens taken in 1932 and 1933 were purchased directly from the collector; those taken in 1930 came to CM as part of a major exchange with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. To the best of my knowledge, none of these specimens has been mentioned previously in the literature.

Data for the CM specimens are presented first; all subsequent statements about previous records are quoted or paraphrased from Wilson and Ceballos-Lascurain unless otherwise attributed.

EMPIDONAX MINIMUS (LEAST FLYCATCHER)

CM 150275, female, Ixtapalapa, 20 April 1930. "Status uncertain, probably a rather rare but regular passage migrant." Five previous definite records, only one of which was from spring (La Cima, 9 May 1973).

EMPIDONAX AFFINIS (PINE FLYCATCHER)

CM 116138, male, and 116142, female, both from Contreras, 6 and 12 January 1933. "Status uncertain, probably a rare resident; the only definite recent record is of one found in the Contreras Valley from April 19 to 21, 1985."

EMPIDONAX FULVIFRONS (BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER)

CM 150399, male?, Tlalpan, 13 July 1930. Previously recorded at La Cima in May and July, "possibly indicating that a few pairs are resident in this area." During the nonbreeding season, this species has been seen fairly often in the Pedregal de San Angel, which

is adjacent to Brown's collecting locality Tlalpan. The area may now be too urbanized to expect to find nesting *Empidonax fulvifrons*.

SAYORNIS NIGRICANS (BLACK PHOEBE)

CM 116162, male, 15 February 1933, and 150384, 9 July 1930, both from Tlalpan. The 9 July specimen is a full-grown juvenile. Only three previous records from the DF: an "immature" 20-27 August 1973, and adults 23 September-27 November 1972 and 6-12 December 1985.

PYROCEPHALUS RUBINUS (VERMILION FLYCATCHER)

CM 150259, female, "near Mexico City," 17 April 1930; CM 150261, male, Ixtapalapa, 19 April 1930. "Rather rare resident or winter visitor; prior to 1973 there are records of this species from the grounds of the U.N.A.M. [National University of Mexico] . . . and from Barranca del Muerto . . ." Ixtapalapa, now within the city limits of Mexico City, is about 3-4 km E of the U.N.A.M. campus. According to Phillips (pers. comm.), this species may not be as rare as suggested by Wilson and Ceballos-Lascurain; in an unpublished study of the birds of Pedregal de San Angel, "Ramos found *Pyrocephalus* at least once a month in the Botanical Garden, with 3 birds from March to start of June about in the same places."

MYIARCHUS TUBERCULIFER (DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER)

CM 150309, female, Ixtapalapa, 1 May 1930. There is only one previous record for the DF, two individuals seen in the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden, 27 February-19 March 1973; as a sight record, it is not assignable to subspecies. Although H. C. Oberholser had identified the CM specimen as *Myiarchus tuberculifer querulus* when it was in the Cleveland Museum collection, this is clearly erroneous. Both in color and in size, CM 150309 is a good match for the northern migratory subspecies *M. t. olivascens*.

SALPINCTES OBSOLETUS (ROCK WREN)

CM 150379, female; 150391, female; 116163, male; 116228, female, all from Tlalpan, 7 and 11 July 1930, and 15 February and 21 June 1933; 116058, female, La Venta, 5 September 1932; and 116127, male, 28 December 1932, Contreras. "Rare resident, infrequently recorded in the Federal District." No records are cited for later than June or earlier than September; the Tlalpan specimens may thus constitute the first midsummer records for the DF. These Tlalpan specimens are topotypes of *notius* Ridgway, which is usu-

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ally synonymized with *obsoletus* (Say), but see Phillips (The known birds of North and Middle America, part I. Privately printed, Denver, 1986, p. 173).

VIREO BELLII (BELL'S VIREO)

CM 150276, male, Ixtapalapa, 20 April 1930. The only previous record for the DF is a sight record from the Bosque de Tlalpan, 24 October 1972. H. C. Oberholser had identified the CM specimen as *Vireo bellii bellii* when it was in the Cleveland Museum collection, but A. R. Phillips examined it in 1982 and annotated the label "probably *medius*." Although slightly yellower ventrally than a series of 13 seasonally comparable specimens of *medius* in CM, the specimen matches the grayish upperparts and crown color of that subspecies; I concur with A. R. Phillips' identification of the first DF specimen as *V. b. medius*.

SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA
(AMERICAN REDSTART)

CM 150310, definitively plumaged male, Ixtapalapa, 1 May 1930. There are four fall records; the only previous spring record is a female taken in the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden, now in the university's Institute of Biology collection.

SPIZELLA PASSERINA MEXICANA
(CHIPPING SPARROW, RESIDENT RACE)

CM 150371, female, Desierto de los Leones, 18 June 1930. "Probably nests only in the Pedregal de San Angel, particularly in the Bosque de Tlalpan." The CM specimen was taken approximately 20 km farther west and at a considerably higher altitude, in what is now a rather disturbed area, where "the forest has been badly damaged in places by insect plagues and acid rain."

SPIZELLA P. ARIZONAE × *S. PALLIDA*?
(HYBRID SPARROW?)

CM 116161, female, Desierto de los Leones, 11 February 1933. This is a strange-looking specimen. Although taken at a breeding site of *Spizella passerina*

mexicana (see above), it is clearly not assignable to that race. R. C. Banks has identified it as *S. p. arizonae*, but it differs from a long series of that subspecies in CM in at least two characters. The crown and the back are almost completely separated by a gray collar, and the upper tail coverts are distinctly brown, with blackish medial streaks, contrasting with the gray of the rump. These are characters of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*S. pallida*); the general *Gestalt* of the specimen recalls *S. pallida*, and in fact it was originally so catalogued by W. E. Clyde Todd at CM, although its wing length, 67.5 mm, is that of a Chipping, not a Clay-colored Sparrow. The possibility must remain open that this specimen is an interspecific hybrid.

SPIZELLA PALLIDA
(CLAY-COLORED SPARROW)

CM 150250, male, Mexico City, 15 April 1930; 150251, female, Ixtapalapa, 16 April 1930; 116903, female, La Venta, 20 November 1932. "Rare visitor but possibly overlooked . . . there are few records from the Federal District." The above specimens include the only spring records; the three DF sight records listed by Wilson and Ceballos-Lascurain are from 24 September, 4 October, and 26 November.

ICTERUS SPURIUS
(ORCHARD ORIOLE)

CM 150315, definitively plumaged male, Ixtapalapa, 2 May 1930. "Rare passage migrant; there are few definite records from the Federal District . . ." Three, all sight records, are listed; 24 August, 9 March, and 20 April. A. R. Phillips has tentatively identified this specimen as belonging to the Mexican Plateau subspecies *Icterus spurius phillipsi* Dickerman and Warner. Comparative material in CM is inadequate to verify this identification.

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