

NOTES

NOTES FROM ISLA GUADALUPE

THOMAS A. OBERBAUER, 3739 Oleander, San Diego, California 92106

CATHY CIBIT, P.O. Box 82041, San Diego, California 92138

ERIC LICHTWARDT, P.O. Box 985, National City, California 92050

In March of 1988, we visited Isla Guadalupe, Baja California, for three days. On the 28th, we camped under the Guadalupe Cypress (*Cupressus guadalupensis*) grove in the central highlands of the island and another group camped at the spring in the upper portion of the large crater in the northern part of the island. On the 29th, we visited the pines and palms in the northwestern part of the island. On the 30th, the group landed at the south end of the island. Visitation to the island is restricted by the Mexican government and allowed only with proper permits. A new graded but steep and rugged road extends from the northeast anchorage past the cypress grove and the newly surfaced airstrip to the village near Melpomene Cove at the southern end of the island. Feral goats, cats, and dogs are common. The goats and cats have decimated the biota of the island (Lindsay 1966; Howell and Cade 1954), especially in the northern parts.

The avifauna of Guadalupe Island was summarized by Jehl and Everett (1985). They reviewed all previous reports of the island's birds.

We identified the following species during our visit:

Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*). We observed six Laysan Albatross nests near Melpomene Cove, on the shoulder of the mesa above a weather station. Five nests had half-grown chicks and one contained a single egg. Ten adults were observed flying in the area of the cove. Courtship activities were observed in which birds approached one another and tipped their heads back and then pointed them at the ground in unison. The constant wind of the site facilitates easy take-off and landing for these birds. Pitman (1988) and Dunlap (1988) discussed the range extension of these birds here and to the Alijos Rocks and Isla San Benedicto. The Guadalupe colony was not present in this site when Oberbauer last visited this area in January of 1981.

Storm petrels. We heard calls of storm petrels of unknown identity before dawn at Pilot Rock Beach on the north end of the island.

Xantus Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*). Two pairs of wings were found on the mesa at the south end of the island.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). One was observed on the ridgetop of Mount Augusta at the north end, another at the south end of the island.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). Several were observed in the upper area of the north end.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*). Reported by a member of the party near the spring near the north end. We found pellets at the south end near an abandoned navigational tower.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). Three observed in the Tree Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) at lower elevations, north end of the island.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). One observed and heard in cypress forest at the north end. We could not distinguish whether the bird was a migrant from the mainland or the endemic *C. a. rufipileus*, now believed probably to be extinct.

NOTES

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). The most common bird on the island, having benefited greatly from denudation by goats. A nest hole was seen in a bank of the northeastern road, and a nest with three eggs was found above the upper end of the pines on the north end of the island.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Three were observed in the cypresses at the north end.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). The Guadalupe race (*J. h. insularis*) is common in the cypress forest and pines. It was not as common at lower elevations as one of us noted in April 1979 and January and May 1981.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Common from lowest elevations to cypress forest. Vocalizations prevalent and continuous in the cypress forest, especially in the morning.

We looked for Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) in the northern grove of cypress and pines but saw none. The status of the endemic subspecies *R. c. obscurus* is unknown (Jehl and Everett 1985). We listened for nocturnal calls from potentially nesting sea birds in the cypress forest but heard none; however, the cypress forest is large enough that we did not survey it completely.

We thank Captain Eddie McEwen and Margie Stinson of the *Pacific Queen* and Carlos de Alba of the *Officina de Pesca*, Ensenada for transportation to Isla Gualalupe and arranging for permits to land there. We thank Philip Unitt and William T. Everett for reviewing an early draft of this article.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dunlap, E. 1988. Laysan Albatross nesting on Guadalupe Island, Mexico. *Am. Birds* 42:180-181.
- Howell, T. R., and Cade, T. J. 1954. The birds of Guadalupe Island in 1953. *Condor* 56:283-294.
- Jehl, J. R. Jr., and Everett, W. T. 1985. History and status of the avifauna of Isla Guadalupe, Mexico. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 20:313-336.
- Lindsay, G. 1966. Guadalupe Island. *Pac. Discovery* 19:2-11.
- Pitman, R. L. 1988. Laysan Albatross breeding in the eastern Pacific—and a comment. *Pac. Seabird Group Bull.* 15:52.

Accepted 20 August 1989