

GENERAL NOTES

Nine new specimen records for Guatemala.—During the course of field work on the ecology of arthropod-borne viruses in Guatemala, particularly in the environs of La Avellana on the Pacific lowlands, Department of Santa Rosa, I collected 9 species of birds not previously taken in Guatemala.

La Avellana is on the inland edge of a marsh that extends approximately 100 km along the Pacific coast. At La Avellana the marsh is about 2 km wide and is bordered on the seaward side by a barrier beach, on which is located the village of Monterrico. The marsh is composed of extensive areas of cattail, shallow (seasonally dry) lagoons, with mangroves along the major tidal channels. The marsh is more saline during the dry months December to May. A narrow, interrupted band of swamp forest borders the inner edge of the marsh and extends in a narrow riparian band as a gallery-type forest along streams draining into the marsh. Inland from La Avellana and extending parallel to the coast southeast into El Salvador and northwest towards San Jose is a belt (at La Avellana 3–5 km wide) of dry tropical scrub forest. This narrow belt was not plotted on the map of the Holdridge Life Zones of Guatemala (Land, *Birds of Guatemala*, Livingston Publ. Co., Wynnewood, Pa., 1972:7, map II) but is evident on distributional maps of moist forest inhabiting species such as the Longtailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia linearis*) (p. 202) or the Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) (p. 270). Farther inland more mesic tropical dry forest grades into the tropical moist forest of the foothills. On map IV (Land, op. cit.:21) localities 44 and 45, representing La Avellana and Papaturo are reversed; 44 should be La Avellana.

I worked at La Avellana during February and August 1968, July and August 1970–1972 and in April and early May 1973 and 1974, and collected less extensively elsewhere in Guatemala within these time periods. C. Donald Powers participated in the field work in 1971 and 1972, John O. Biderman in 1973, and Ronald C. Franck in 1974.

Specimens are deposited at the American Museum of Natural History or at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Puffinus griseus. Sooty Shearwater. A male found dying on the beach at Monterrico, 8 May 1974 and obtained from a native is the first specimen for the family Procellariidae from Guatemala. In mid-April 1973 Jehl saw an (?) individual about 40 km off the Pacific coast of northwestern Guatemala (Auk 91:681–699, 1974).

Cathartes burrovianus. Yellow-headed Vulture. An adult male with testes slightly enlarged was collected ca. 7 km W of La Avellana, 25 November 1969. On that date at least 4, possibly 6 were seen. One or 2 were observed over the open marsh near La Avellana 19 July 1970 and occasionally on trips to this habitat during April and May 1973 and 1974.

Porzana flaviventer. Yellow-breasted Crane. This species was added by Eugene Eisenmann to Land's manuscript of "Birds of Guatemala." This was based on information from Miguel Alvarez del Toro (*pers. comm.*) regarding specimens I collected at the Laguna Lagartos on the Guatemala-Mexican border 22 January 1966. However, those specimens were taken on the Chiapas side of the marsh (see Dickerman, *Wilson Bull.* 83:53, 1971) and by Land's criteria the species probably should have been considered hypothetical for Guatemala at that time. Definite Guatemala records are now available. I saw 2 in the marsh near La Avellana and collected an

adult female 29 April 1974. Its ovary was granular although only slightly enlarged. The bird weighed 20.2 g.

Charadrius alexandrinus. Snowy Plover. I saw 2 birds and collected one at the mouth of the Rio Los Esclavos, Department of Santa Rosa, 28 April 1973. The specimen was an excessively fat female that weighed 50.4 g.

Limosa haemastica. Hudsonian Godwit. Two birds were collected from a flock of 14 that I flushed from mud flats in the shallow lagoons lying between Avellana and Monterrico on 26 April; 1 to 8 birds were observed 27–29 April 1973. A group of 3 collected 24 April 1974 were the only ones seen that spring. The 2 females collected in 1973 were fat and weighed 252 and 220 g; those taken in 1974, 2 females and a male, all were moderately fat to fat and in heavy molt; they weighed 192.6, 204 and 188 g respectively.

Hydroprogne caspia. Caspian Tern. This species was included by Land based on a Pacific coast sight record made 15 February 1967. Additional records are 2 seen near La Avellana 25 November 1969, 20–50 seen nearly daily 10 April to 6 May 1973, and 1–30 seen nearly daily 6–29 April 1974. One was collected 12 April, thus removing the species from the hypothetical list.

Philomachus pugnax. Ruff. A Reeve was collected on the mud flats in the marsh between La Avellana and Monterrico 16 April 1974. She was in heavy molt about the head, and was without fat (weight 68 g). The ovary was not enlarged but ovules were distinct. The meat was dark and flavorsome, comparable to that of *Limnodromus* and *Numenius*. This is apparently the southernmost verified record of the species in Central America.

Otus cooperi. Pacific Screech-owl. Land (op. cit.) mentioned that this screech-owl was to be expected in Guatemala. A female was collected from a pair by Sergio Romero Ibarra 2 km NE of Papaturo, (ca. 5½ km E of La Avellana) 2 May 1974. She weighed 181 g.

Cassidix melanicterus. Yellow-winged Cacique. This species, formerly considered restricted to Mexico, is common in the riparian zones transecting the arid tropical scrub inland from La Avellana. I saw groups of 30 or more birds feeding in fruiting trees. Nest building was under way in late April 1974. Specimens were collected 6 August 1971, 14 and 29 August 1972 and 11 April 1973.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, Dept. of Microbiology, Cornell Univ. Medical College, 1300 York Ave., New York, NY 10021. Accepted 26 Nov. 1974.

A new species of *Spizaetus* from the Pliocene of Nebraska.—The late Pliocene (Kimballian) of Nebraska is producing a rich avifauna which has so far included a small turkey, *Proagriocharis kimballensis* (Martin and Tate, Wilson Bull. 82:214–218, 1970), a goose-like swan, *Paracygnus plattensis* (Short, Am. Mus. Novitates 2369:1–7, 1969), and a giant anhinga, *Anhinga grandis* (Martin and Mengel, Auk 92:137–140, 1975). I will here describe a new species of long-shanked eagle, represented by a tarsometatarsus. The fauna of the Kimballian in Nebraska and a brief history of the “*Amebelodon fricki* Quarry” (Univ. of Nebraska State Museum UNSM collecting locality Ft-40) where this specimen was found, is summarized in Schultz et al. (Bull. Univ. Nebraska State Mus. 9:1–31, 1970).

Comparisons were made with tarsometatarsi of *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* (2 specimens), *Buteo harlani* (5), *B. swainsoni* (5), *B. regalis* (50), *B. jamaicensis* (50), *B. buteo* (2), *B. lineatus* (3), *B. platypterus* (3), *B. nitidus* (5), *B. magnirostris* (10), *B.*