

Additional bird records for Oaxaca, Mexico

by José Eduardo Morales-Pérez

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The largest diverse avifauna in Mexico exists in the state of Oaxaca. A thorough survey of the birds of this Mexican state was published by Binford (1989), where he stated that specimens of 20 museums were consulted. However, in his hypothetical list, Binford included some species based only on sight records, and others for which he considered the evidence unsatisfactory, such as those specimens reported by Mario del Toro Avilés, which Binford regarded as untrustworthy. Parkes (1990) provided additional distributional information of 19 species not listed by Binford, from specimens deposited in the collection of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The purpose of this paper is to provide information on specimens of 30 species from Oaxaca at the ornithological collections of the former Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos (INIREB). At present, those collections are in the care of the Instituto de Historia Natural (IHN) de Chiapas, Mexico.

While reorganizing and recataloging the ornithological collection, I encountered several specimens from Temascal, at Presa Miguel Alemán (the dam), Oaxaca (18°15'N 96°24'W; figure 1) collected by Mario A. Ramos; this is the locality of most specimens, unless indicated otherwise. In this paper, the species of interest are listed and discussed briefly in some cases. Nomenclature and common names in English follow the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 1983). The Spanish common names are from Escalante *et al.* (1996). All specimens were preserved as study skins; information on moult and fat is referred here as light, moderate, or heavy. The main habitats were obtained from the cartographic information of the Secretaría de Programación y Presupuesto (SPP 1980) and are: Second Growth Evergreen Seasonal Forest, Evergreen Seasonal Forest and Seasonal Croplands.

Species accounts

BARE-THROATED TIGER-HERON. *garza-tigre mexicana* *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

Binford (1978: 78) listed records of this species for the Atlantic region only in the vicinity of the Isthmus, where he considered it common. The following records extend the range in Oaxaca to the northwestern section in the Atlantic region: (IHN 1551), female, 2 July 1980, 1,000 g., light fat, light moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1548), male, 5 August 1980, unweighed, no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1549), female, 26 August 1980, 1,100 g., no fat, light moult; (IHN

ossified; (IHN 1590), male, no date, 444.2 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON. pedrete corona negra *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Although Blake (1977), cited this heron as a breeding and generally resident bird from northern United States and southern Canada southward locally through Mexico, Binford (1989) recorded this species only as a winter resident, and possibly a permanent resident and mentioned only one specimen (USNM 59780) collected in 1869. He listed also two sight records from Presa Miguel Alemán. Erickson and Hamilton (1993), reported two individuals flying over Tehuantepec City in the Pacific region. Specimens in IHN reinforce its presence as a breeding bird in the Atlantic region: (IHN 1614), female, 30 June 1980, 750 g., moderate fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1610), female, 26 August 1980, 548.5 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull not ossified; (IHN 1611), male, 26 August 1980, 525.7 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1612), Southwest Soyaltepec, unsexed, 8 October 1980, 635.8 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1613), 15 km. South Chicali, male, 17 March 1981, 582.7 g., no fat, light moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1615), Embarcadero, male, 24 August 1980, 676 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1616), male, 30 June 1980, 750 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1617), male, 30 June 1980, unweighed, no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1618), male, chick, 29 July 1980, 146.2 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull not ossified; (IHN 1619), unsexed, chick, 29 July 1980, 27.9 g., no fat, no moult, skull not ossified; (IHN 1620), unsexed, chick, 29 July 1980, 89.5 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull not ossified.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK. pijije canelo *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Binford (1989) had no specimens and cited only three acceptable sight records for the Pacific region from January to 28 April. Specimens listed herein are the first for Oaxaca and confirm its presence in the state and extend its distributional range to the east. Loetscher (1955) reported this species from Veracruz as regular, but very local, in winter: (IHN 1631), female, 14 September 1980, 626 g., moderate fat, heavy moult; (IHN 1632), 1 km northwest Soyaltepec, male, 22 May 1982, 800 g., light fat, testes enlarged, member of a pair on a small island.

RUDDY DUCK. pato tepalcate *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Binford (1989), has recorded this species as a very uncommon winter resident based on one published specimen record and four definite sight records. Specimens listed herein are: (IHN 1676), north of Cerro Bolso, male, 29 August 1980, 647 g., moderate fat, heavy moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged; (IHN 1677), Soyaltepec, male, 24 July 1982, 511.5 g., moderate fat, light moult, skull ossified.

SNAIL KITE. gavilán caracolero *Rosthramus sociabilis*

Binford (1989) cited only one Oaxaca specimen (WFFVZ 169) from Tapanatepec (16°22'94"13') and several sight records, all from the

Isthmus of Tehuantepec. This specimen extends its distributional range to the northeastern section: (IHN 1681), female, 26 June 1980, 532.5 g., no fat, light moult, skull ossified, ovary enlarged.

RUDDY CRAKE. *polluela rojiza* *Laterallus ruber*

Recorded at only one definite locality in the Atlantic region at a point about 3 km east of Sarabia (Binford 1989). The specimen extends its distributional range 200 km NW: (IHN 1695), female, 11 April 1980, 45 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified.

COMMON MOORHEN. *gallineta frente roja* *Gallinula chloropus*

This species was recorded by Binford (1989) as a winter resident in shallow freshwater habitats, possibly a rare and local permanent resident and recorded only in the lowest portions of the Atlantic and Pacific regions. Specimens included in this paper suggest, by virtue of date, that the species could be a permanent resident in this area: (IHN 1701), Soyaltepec Island, male, 29 July 1980, 351.5 g., no fat, moderate moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1702), male, 29 July 1980, 349.7 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1703), male, 26 May 1980, 250 g., light fat, light moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged; (IHN 1704), Capilla, male, 13 April 1982, 294 g., no fat, moderate moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1705), male, 26 August 1980, 372.4 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull partially ossified.

AMERICAN COOT. *gallareta americana* *Fulica americana*

This species was expected in the Atlantic region by Binford (1989). These specimens provide the first fall records and suggest that the species is a permanent resident in the area: (IHN 1706), female, 19 September 1980, 449.4 g., light fat, heavy moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1707), female, 14 April 1982, 505 g., heavy fat, light moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 1708), Buenos Aires, female, 4 December 1981, 477.7 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 1709), male, 22 May 1980, 750 g., light fat, heavy moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1710), female, 29 August 1980, 413 g., no fat no moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 1711), Capilla, female, 13 April 1982, 531.5 g., heavy fat, light moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1712), female 1 April 1980, light fat, light moult, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 1713), female, 30 June 1980, light fat, heavy moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1714), female, 8 April 1980, 500 g., heavy fat, no moult; (IHN 1715), male, 8 April 1980, 500 g., moderate fat, no moult.

SUNGREBE. *pájaro cantil* *Heliornis fulica*

Lowery & Dalquest (1951) reported this species as common on the rivers of southern Veracruz and slightly less so in central Veracruz. Although Binford (1989), considered it as a rare permanent resident, he cited as the only reliable records those from 15 km north of Matías Romero (16°53'N, 95°02'W – WFVZ-HC 4874 –); (MLZ 51362) from Loma Bonita (18°07'N, 95°53'W) and another (MVZ 133473) from 27 km north of Matías Romero. All records included herein support its

presence in the Atlantic region and provide additional localities: (IHN 1716), Vertedor, male, 10 March 1982, 153 g., moderate fat, light moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1717), 2 km west of Mirador, male, 4 December 1981, 146.3 g., light fat, moderate moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1718), male, 15 April 1982, 126.6 g., light fat, no moult, skull partially ossified.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. chorlo gris *Pluvialis squatarola*

The only previous records for Oaxaca belong to the Pacific coast (Binford 1989); this record documents its presence in the Atlantic region: (IHN 1719), Arroyo Platanar, female, 26 May 1982, 181.5 g., moderate fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary enlarged.

COLLARED PLOVER. chorlo de collar *Charadrius collaris*

The species was recorded by Binford (1989) as an uncommon permanent resident in the Pacific region and to be expected on river bars of the Atlantic region. The specimens included herein document its presence in this region: (IHN 1720), Embarcadero Cooperativas, unsexed, 1 July 1980, 27.9 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1721), Embarcadero, female, 28 July 1980, 30 g., moderate fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1722), Pochotas, female, 14 April 1982, 32.4 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary enlarged; (IHN 1723), male, 14 April 1982, 31 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes slightly enlarged.

BLACK-NECKED STILT. candelero americano *Himantopus mexicanus*

Cited by Binford (1989) as a common permanent resident in the Pacific region; Erickson & Hamilton (1993) reported a nesting adult on June 30 near La Venta, east of Juchitán, Oaxaca. Specimens in this paper extend its distributional range towards the Atlantic region: (IHN 1726), male, 11 September 1980, 170 g., moderate fat, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1727), female, 14 April 1982, 168.9 g., light fat, skull ossified; (IHN 1728), female, 5 December 1981, 153 g., moderate fat, heavy moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1730), female, 5 December 1981, 145.4 g., no fat, light moult, skull partially ossified.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS. patamarilla menor *Tringa flavipes*

Binford knew of records of this species only from the Pacific region, but predicted that it would be found elsewhere. Loetscher (1955) reported it from Playa Vicente, Veracruz (85 km southeast from Temascal). Specimens listed herein are the first records for the Atlantic region in Oaxaca: (IHN 1737), female, 15 April 1982, 99.9 g., moderate fat, light moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1738), Pescaditos de Arriba, 15 April 1982, female, 105.5 g., heavy fat, no moult, skull ossified.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. costurero pico largo *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Although known from Mirador, Veracruz, located 150 km north-northeast from Temascal (Loetscher 1955), these specimens are the first records for the Atlantic region in Oaxaca: (IHN 1752), Arroyo

Grande, undated female, 133.5 g., heavy fat, skull ossified; (IHN 1753), Arroyo Grande, female, 21 May 1981, 140.2 g., heavy fat, no moult, skull not ossified.

HERRING GULL. *gaviota plateada* *Larus argentatus*

The Herring Gull is a fairly common to common winter visitor on the Atlantic coast in Tamaulipas and northern Veracruz but northern Oaxaca has not been considered in its distributional range (Howell & Webb 1995). Loetscher (1955) considered it as uncommon to rare inland and referred to an inland recovery from Coscomatepec (120 km northwest from Temascal). Not included by Binford (1989) for Oaxaca. Thus, these records are the first for Oaxaca: (IHN 1773), "Pescadito de Arriba", 15 January 1981, 929 g., skull ossified, sex unrecorded, light fat, no moult; (IHN 1774), "Isla Bolso", 18 January 1983, unsexed, 966 g., skull ossified, heavy fat, moult unrecorded. (IHN 1755), locality and date as above, immature female, 1,009 g., skull ossified, heavy fat, light moult.

CASPIAN TERN. *charrán caspia* *Sterna caspia*

Specimens listed in this paper are the first specimens for the Atlantic region, all previous Oaxaca records being from the Pacific coast (Binford 1989): (IHN 1777), female, 13 April 1982, light fat, no moult, skull ossified. (IHN 1778), male, 22 May 1980, light fat, no moult, skull ossified.

ROYAL TERN. *charrán real* *S. maxima*

Ferrari-Pérez (1886) cited it as casual at Jalapa, Veracruz (155 km north from Temascal), and Andrle (1966) reported three birds from Catemaco (145 km east from Temascal). This is the first record for the Atlantic region in Oaxaca: (IHN 1779), female, 20 September 1980, 479.2 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified.

STRIPED CUCKOO. *cuclillo rayado* *Tapera naevia*

Lowery & Dalquest (1951) reported a specimen in Veracruz, 75 km north from Temascal. Binford (1989), listed it as an uncommon permanent resident to at least a point 37 km south of San Juan Bautista Tuxtepec. This specimen reinforces its presence near San Miguel Soyaltepec, supporting the records of del Toro Avilés (Binford 1989): (IHN 1806), Centro Piscícola, male, 28 June 1980, 63.7 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes slightly enlarged.

STRIPED OWL. *búho caraclara* *Asio clamator*

A specimen from Presidio, Veracruz (18°39'N 96°46'), collected in 1925 is the nearest to Temascal. A rare permanent resident in Atlantic region, it was previously known only from three specimens collected in the Isthmus in 1960 (Binford 1989). The specimens reported here represent a major range extension to the northwest in Oaxaca: (IHN 1814), 1 km from Chicalí, male, 17 February 1981, 354.5 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1815), 1 km south of Chicalí, female, 17 March 1981, 463 g., light fat, light moult, skull ossified,

ovary and ova enlarged. (IHN 1816), 1 km west of Chical  , female, 21 May 1981, no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1817), 1 km south of Chical  , female, 26 May 1981, 413.7 g., no fat, heavy moult, skull ossified.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD. colibr   yucateco *Amazilia yucatanensis*

Though known from Veracruz (50 km northeast of Temascal) according to Lowery & Dalquest (1951), the only previous definite Oaxaca record was a specimen taken in the Isthmus (Binford 1989): (IHN 1865), female, 23 March 1980, 2.5 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified.

GREAT ANTSHRIKE. batar   mayor *Taraba major*

These records verify its presence in the Atlantic region and could support those of del Toro Avil  s, questioned by Binford (1989): (IHN 1895), 150 m., south Centro Acu  cola, male, 24 March 1980, 64 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 1896), 120 m., south of Estaci  n Acu  cola, female, 25 March 1980, 60 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary enlarged.

SLATE-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER. espatulilla gris *Todirostrum sylvia*

The status of this species in the Atlantic region is similar to that of *Taraba major* (above): (IHN 1916), 150 m, south of Centro Acu  cola, female, 27 June 1980, 6.7 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified, ovary enlarged; (IHN 1917), 150 m, northeast of Centro Pisc  cola, female, 1 June 1980, 8 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1918), 150 m, north of Estaci  n Pisc  cola, male, 1 June 1980, 8 g., light fat, no moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 1919), male, 27 June 1980, 6.7 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified, testes enlarged.

ROYAL FLYCATCHER. mosquero real *Onychorhynchus coronatus*

This record extends its distributional range 200 km NW, and like those above, supports the records of Mario del Toro Avil  s (Binford 1989): (IHN 1921), Estaci  n Pisc  cola, female, 15 February 1980, no fat, no moult, skull ossified.

COUCH'S KINGBIRD. tirano silbador *Tyrannus couchii*

This is the second definite record for the species in Oaxaca or the third if the specimen of Mario del Toro Avil  s is accepted (Binford 1989): (IHN 1981), Centro Acu  cola, male, 28 May 1980, light fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER. chipe ala azul *Vermivora pinus*

Apparently it is a rare winter resident and uncommon transient based on the available collecting dates. These are additional specimens for Oaxaca because Binford (1989) cited only three: (IHN 2061), 150 m, south of Centro Pisc  cola, unsexed, 20 September 1980, 7.2 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 2062), 150 m, south of Centro Pisc  cola, unsexed, 29 September 1980, 7 g., no fat, no moult, skull

partially ossified; (IHN 2063), 150 m, south of Centro Piscícola, unsexed, 3 April 1980, no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 2064), 150 m south of Centro Piscícola, female, 23 March 1980, 7.5 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 2065), 150 m west from Mesón, female, 20 November 1980, 6 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 2066), 150 m, south of Centro Piscícola, unsexed, 20 September 1980, 6.4 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 2067), 150 m south of Centro Piscícola, male, 13 September 1980, 7 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 2068), 150 m, south of Centro Piscícola, male, 23 September 1980, 6.3 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified.

GRAY-THROATED CHAT. granatelo yucateco *Granatellus sallaei*

This record reinforces its presence in the area and could support del Toro Avilés' records (Binford 1989) from San Miguel Soyaltepec: (IHN 2163), male, 29 May 1980, unweighed, no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes slightly enlarged.

THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH. semillero pico grueso *Oryzoborus funereus*

Binford (1989) only cited three records for the Atlantic region, one from Suchapam (locality unknown, but possibly near Playa Vicente, Veracruz; type of *funereus* and presumably in BMNH). One specimen (ARPC 5442) from 39 km north of Matías Romero and two specimens in the museum of Natural History of Leiden (907/35082 and 908/35083) and cited by Mees (1970). These specimens reinforce the presence of this species as a permanent resident and disprove its supposed rarity. All specimens except no 2,296 are from 150 m south of Estación Piscícola: (IHN 2296), Estación Piscícola, female, 16 February 1980, 10 g., no fat, no moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 2297), male, 26 June 1980, 12.8 g., no fat, light moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged; (IHN 2298), male, 1 August 1990, unweighed, no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged. (IHN 2299), male, 26 June 1980, 12 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged; (IHN 2300), female, 28 June 1980, 12.7 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged; (IHN 2301), male, 23 March 1980, 10 g., light fat, no moult, skull ossified; (IHN 2302), female, 27 June 1980, 12.1 g., no fat, light moult, skull ossified, ovary slightly enlarged.

HOODED ORIOLE. bolsero encapuchado *Icterus cucullatus*

These specimens reinforce its presence in the Atlantic region and could support the records of Mario del Toro Avilés (Binford 1989): (IHN 2330), Centro Acuícola, male, 23 May 1980, 70 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes enlarged; (IHN 2331), 150 m, south of Centro Piscícola, female, 20 September 1980, 58.1 g., no fat, light moult, skull partially ossified; (IHN 2332), 150 m, south of Centro Piscícola, male, 23 March 1980, 72 g., no fat, no moult, skull ossified, testes slightly enlarged. The May record suggests the possibility of breeding.

CHESTNUT-HEADED OROPENDOLA. oropéndola cabeza castaña
Psarocolius wagleri

The specimen in the collection (IHN 2359), was a female collected at 50 m northeast Centro Acuicola on 28 June 1980, 113.8 g., skull ossified, no fat, no moult. Although Chestnut-headed Oropendola is reported from northern Oaxaca (Torres-Chávez 1992, Howell & Webb 1995) on the basis of sight records by Behrstock & Howell, the specimen reported herein appears to be the first for Oaxaca. The specimens cited above provide more information for Oaxaca's avifauna (Friedmann *et al.* 1950, Miller *et al.* 1957, AOU 1983, Binford 1989, Parkes 1990, Howell & Webb 1995) and they were not known to Binford (1989) nor Parkes (1990), as is true of many specimens deposited in Mexican ornithological collections. Clearly, much remains to be discovered to increase knowledge of the birds of this state. In this task, Mexican museums can provide additional information to fill major gaps in the knowledge of Mexican ornithology.

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Notes on birds from the Cape Verde Islands in the collection of the Centro de Zoologia, Lisbon, with comments on taxonomy and distribution

by C. J. Hazevoet

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A comprehensive overview of all taxa of birds reliably recorded in the Cape Verde Islands, with details on inter- and intra-island distribution, breeding, migration and taxonomy (including data up to 1994), was presented by Hazevoet (1995). In preparation for that work, the major collections of Cape Verde birds in the U.K. and U.S.A. were studied but, so far, there had been no opportunity to study the Cape Verde collection at the Centro de Zoologia of the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (I.I.C.T.) in Lisbon. Specimens in this collection were listed by Frade (1976) and data in Hazevoet (1995) were taken from that paper. This included several 'first records', as well as data on rare migrants and endemics. Frade (1976) listed specimens by island but did not give within-island collecting localities. Moreover, some parts of his paper were not entirely clear or warranted further confirmation of the specific identity of some specimens.

During a visit to the Centro de Zoologia in June 1997, I had the opportunity to study the collection of birds from the Cape Verde Islands. Most of these (*c.* 400 specimens) were collected by Sr. Jaime Vieira dos Santos during three autumn visits in 1969, 1970, and 1972. Collections were made throughout the archipelago, except for the islands of Santa Luzia, Sal, and Boavista. In addition, there are *c.* 25 specimens collected on various islands by Father René de Naurois in 1965 and 1968. Some of the latter, but not all, were included by Frade (1976). In most cases, within-island collecting localities were given on the specimen labels (as well as in the collection catalogue) and it has now been possible to establish these as well as to verify the identity of the rarer taxa, some of which proved to have been misidentified by Frade (1976).

Notes on selected taxa

Unless stated otherwise, general data on distribution, population size, breeding, number of records, etc. in the following are taken from



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