

ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF HONDURAS

MICKEY J. MARCUS

Dirección General de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Departamento de Vida Silvestre y Recursos Ambientales, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Department of Zoology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469 USA¹

ABSTRACT.—I report specimens and sight records of 15 species new to Honduras: *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, *Falco femoralis*, *Anous minutus*, *Ara ambigua*, *Chalybura urochrysis*, *Baryphthenus martii*, *Myrmeciza exsul*, *Hylopezus perspicillatus*, *Conopias parva*, *Lophotriccus pileatus*, *Dacnis cayana*, *Vermivora ruficapilla*, *Tachyphonus delatrii*, *Pitylus grossus*, and *Sporophila schistacea*. Twelve additional range extensions within Honduras are reported for species that reach their northern limit of distribution in the lowland forests of the Mosquitia region: *Tigrisoma lineatum*, *Leucopternis semiplumbea*, *Ortalis cinereiceps*, *Ramphastos swainsonii*, *Myrmotherula fulviventris*, *Myrmotherula axillaris*, *Hylophylax naevioides*, *Phaenostictus mcleannani*, *Colonia colonus*, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, *Cyporhinus phaeocephalus*, and *Cacicus uropygialis*. With the exception of *Anous minutus*, *Falco femoralis*, and *Vermivora ruficapilla*, all records are range extensions from the south. Some of the northward range extensions into the forests of eastern Honduras from the contiguous forests of Nicaragua were expected, but other records indicate notable range extensions. A list is provided of those species that currently reach their northernmost distribution in Nicaragua and whose presence may be expected in adjacent regions of Honduras. The extensive humid forests in the departments of Olancho and Gracias a Dios are the northernmost limits of numerous species, which may be prevented from further northward dispersal by biogeographic barriers. Received 12 April 1982, accepted 26 January 1983.

FROM December 1978 to March 1981 I recorded range extensions of 25 species during the course of my fieldwork assessing National Park wildlife as a Peace-Corps volunteer assigned to work for the Honduran Department of Wildlife and Ecology (RENARE). Two additional species new to Honduras observed by R. S. Ridgely are here reported. Specimens were collected, photographed, or tape recorded when possible and subsequently deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ); tape recordings are deposited at the Cornell University Library of Natural Sounds. The majority of records here reported are from the recently established Platano River Biosphere Reserve (Reserva de la Biosfera Río Platano), in an isolated region of the Mosquitia. The interior forests of the Mosquitia are virtually inaccessible except by canoe and foot, and the Miskito Amerindian inhabitants of this region continue to be dependent on wildlife for a large percentage of their food and clothing (Marcus 1981). No ornithologist had previously collected along the Río Platano.

Prior to the 1960's, the ornithological knowl-

edge of Honduras was fragmentary, with most records published in a few works (Bangs 1903, Peters 1929, Stone 1932). After extensive fieldwork and collecting in the 1960's, Monroe (1968) published the first and only distributional survey for the whole country. Monroe acknowledged, however, that several regions were poorly explored and that, based on records from adjacent countries, numerous additional species were likely to be added. Virtually every visiting researcher in recent years has recorded new species (Brown and Monroe 1974, Sibley et al. 1980, Udvardy et al. 1973, Avedillo 1977) and range extensions for the country (Udvardy 1976; Marcus 1980a, b; Hanson 1982). There are likely to be further new records, particularly in poorly explored regions such as the Montañas de la Esperanza in the north, the interior forests of Gracias a Dios and Olancho, the pine savannas of the Mosquitia, and the Montaña de Celaque in western Honduras.

Localities frequently mentioned in the species accounts of this paper (see Fig. 1) are: (1) Reserva de la Biosfera Río Platano (Dept. Gracias a Dios = La Mosquitia), a 350,000-ha region of lowland wet evergreen forest, moist montane evergreen forest, and coastal pine savanna encompassing the Platano River watershed; (2)

¹ Present address.

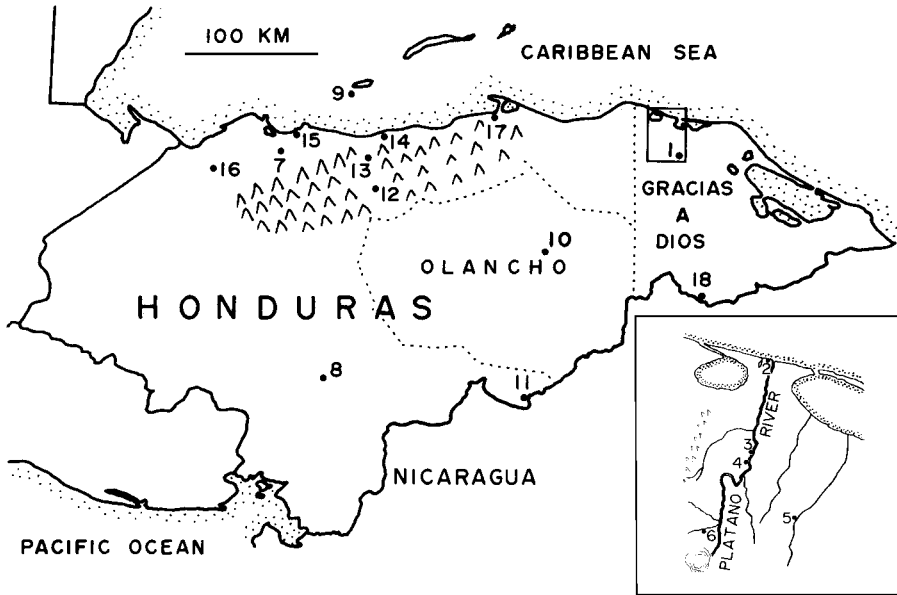


Fig. 1. Map of Honduras showing locations discussed in the text. (1) Platano River Biosphere Reserve; (2) Kuri; (3) Bulebar; (4) Las Marias; (5) Tuskrhuas River; (6) Mairin Tighni; (7) Lancetilla; (8) Parque Nacional La Tigra; (9) Southwest Cay; (10) Catacamas; (11) Arenal; (12) Cordillera Nombre de Dios; (13) Danto; (14) La Ceiba; (15) Tela; (16) San Pedro Sula; (17) Trujillo; (18) Segovia River.

Kuri = Zapote (Gracias a Dios), a savanna village near the mouth of the Platano River and the location of the Biosphere Reserve headquarters ($15^{\circ}55'$, $84^{\circ}32'$; sea level); (3) Bulebar (Gracias a Dios), a small Miskito settlement along the banks of the Platano River in old second-growth forest and used as a base campsite ($15^{\circ}45'$, $84^{\circ}43'$; 25 m); (4) Las Marias (Gracias a Dios), the last Miskito and Paya Amerindian settlement inland on the Platano River in old second-growth wet evergreen forest ($15^{\circ}44'$, $84^{\circ}47'$; 30 m); (5) Tuskrhuas River (Gracias a Dios), a base campsite in primary wet evergreen forest about 25 km southeast of Las Marias (ca. $15^{\circ}25'$, $84^{\circ}45'$; 35 m); (6) Mairin Tighni (Gracias a Dios), a base campsite in old second-growth wet evergreen forest interspersed with patches of primary forest about 9 km southwest of Las Marias ($15^{\circ}30'$, $84^{\circ}58'$; 40 m); (7) Lancetilla (Dept. Atlántida), a botanical garden and forestry research station with an 800-ha forest reserve 7 km south of Tela ($15^{\circ}42'$, $87^{\circ}27'$; 30 m); (8) Parque Nacional La Tigra (Dept. Morazán), a 7,500-ha cloud forest reserve 15 km northeast of Tegucigalpa ($14^{\circ}13'$, $87^{\circ}04'$; 1,400–2,700 m); (9) Southwest Cay (Dept. Bahía), a small island off the southwest coast of

Utila ($16^{\circ}05'$, $87^{\circ}00'$); (10) Catacamas (Dept. Olancho); (11) Arenal (Dept. El Paraiso), an old lumber camp at the southwest edge of Olancho and used by Townsend in 1887 as a collecting site ($13^{\circ}48'$, $85^{\circ}49'$; 370 m); (12) Cordillera Nombre de Dios (Dept. Atlántida); a mountain range parallel to the Caribbean coast extending from Trujillo to the Sula Valley; and (13) Danto (Atlántida), A base campsite in the Cordillera Nombre de Dios about 7 km south of Danto ($15^{\circ}39'$, $86^{\circ}50'$; 160 m).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Tigrisoma lineatum.—Rufescent Tiger Heron. An immature visited the Mairin Tighni camp during the first three days in February 1981 and was photographed at close range (LSUMZ photo file). Other than one doubtful record from Chiapas, Mexico (Peterson and Chalif 1973), this record represents the northern limit of their distribution. The only previous Honduran record is a specimen taken at the Segovia River in 1887 (Monroe 1968).

Falco femoralis.—Aplomado Falcon. Although the species ranges in distribution from the southwest United States to Tierra del Fuego,

there are no previous records of it in Honduras, and, indeed, there are few records for Central America. Land (1970) reports no Guatemalan records during this century, and Ridgely (1976) notes them as uncommon in Panama and currently (1982) decreasing (pers. comm.). Howell (1971) reports this species as scarce but regular in the Mosquitia of Nicaragua, and Koford et al. (1980) report its occurrence in Costa Rica. In the coastal pine savanna of the Honduran Mosquitia, I found this species present and conspicuous between October 1980 and February 1981. These birds were identified by the striped facial pattern, gray back, and the black band across the belly. One pair was frequently observed perched on the tops of small palm clumps growing in the open savanna surrounding the Platano River Biosphere Reserve headquarters in Kuri.

Ortalis cinereiceps.—Gray-headed Chachalaca. This species was found to be a common resident throughout eastern Olancho and the Mosquitia. On 30 March 1979 R. S. Ridgely observed one pair at Aguas Calientes, southeast Catacamas (pers. comm.). I found them to be fairly common in disturbed habitats in the Mosquitia. In the Platano River Biosphere Reserve, groups of a dozen or more individuals were frequently seen feeding on the fruits of riverside *Cecropia* trees and in second-growth or disturbed forest habitats. They are very shy in this region due to heavy hunting pressure. Howell (1971) reported this species as common in the broad-leaved forests in the Nicaraguan Mosquitia and suggested that they would also be found in Honduras. *O. cinereiceps* is the only chachalaca encountered in eastern Honduras, but it probably overlaps with the Plain Chachalaca (*O. vetula*) in the vicinity of Trujillo, Dept. Colón. A photograph of a specimen of *O. cinereiceps* (LSUMZ photo file) shot by a local hunter was taken in Las Marias. These records are the northernmost to date, and there is only one previous published record from Honduras, a specimen from Arenal.

Anous minutus.—Black Noddy Tern. On 9 August 1980 at Southwest Cay, S. Eldred, A. Boersma, and I observed an individual perched on dead coral protruding above the water's surface. It allowed close approach by boat so that its distinguishing characteristics (dark body, white crown, long thin bill, and gray tail) were clearly observed. *A. minutus* is reported to nest off the coast of Belize (Bond 1971), and its presence in Honduras is expected. Udvardy

(1976) observed *A. stolidus* on nearby Sandy Cay, and it is quite possible that cays in the vicinity of Utila support nesting colonies of both species. This is the first report from Honduras.

Ara ambigua.—Great Green Macaw. The occurrence of a large green macaw in Honduras has long been known (Wells 1857 in Monroe 1968); yet, the positive identification of this species has remained a mystery. Monroe (1968) and others have assumed this macaw to be *A. ambigua*, although the Honduran Ministry of Renewable Natural Resources in a campaign to protect threatened species has mistakenly declared full protection to the Military Macaw (*A. militaris*), a primarily South American species with an isolated population in western and central Mexico. Ridgely (1981) records a specimen of this species (AMNH 812649), reported to have come from the Honduran Mosquitia, that was collected by a Miskito hunter. From October 1980 to March 1981 *A. ambigua* was encountered daily in the Platano River Biosphere Reserve. On 30 October a female (LSUMZ 99936) was collected while perched in the canopy of a 30 m-tree located in an overgrown rice field bordered by humid forest 3 km north of Bulebar. Its crop was found to contain numerous seeds and orange arils of fruits tentatively identified by R. Foster as *Sloanea* sp. (Elaeocarpaceae). Although frequently observed along the Platano River, *A. ambigua* is decidedly more numerous in mountainous terrain and areas of undisturbed forest away from human settlement. They are generally observed flying in pairs at low altitudes above the forest canopy and in flocks of up to six individuals. *A. ambigua* is known to range as far north as northern Nicaragua, and thus it is not surprising that it occurs in the adjacent Honduran forests as well. Although once reported to occur in the now deforested Juticalpa and Catacamas region of Olancho [Carr in Monroe (1968)], *A. ambigua* now appears to be restricted to the more remote regions of eastern Olancho and the Mosquitia.

Chalybura urochrysis.—Bronze-tailed Plumbeater. On 24 October and 2 November 1980, two specimens (LSUMZ 99902 and 99903 alch., respectively) were netted in the low strata of old second-growth wet evergreen forest about 1 km north of Bulebar. These are the first records from Honduras.

Baryphthengus martii.—Rufous Motmot. This species was found to be fairly common to uncommon in the Platano River Biosphere Re-

serve. On 10 November 1980 an individual was briefly observed at the Tuskruhuas campsite, and on 24 January 1981 a recently killed female (LSUMZ 99937) was found in excellent condition by J. W. Froehlich along a trail on Cerro Il Bila 15 km southwest of Las Marias (elevation ca. 200 m). On 30 January a female (LSUMZ 99938) was netted in dense forest at Mairin Tighni. At the Mairin Tighni campsite individuals and pairs commonly sang from a low perch throughout most of the day. These are the first Honduran records of another species that reaches its northern limits of distribution in the wet evergreen forests of Gracias a Dios in northeast Honduras. There are no previous Honduran records.

Ramphastos swainsonii.—Chestnut-mandibled Toucan. Although Monroe (1968) lists this toucan as extending only to the forests of Olancho, *R. swainsonii* was found to be a common resident of the forested areas of the Mosquitia in northeast Honduras. Previous records in Honduras are from Arenal, the Patuca River, the Segovia River, Nueva Choluteca, and Aguas Calientes. In the Platano River Biosphere Reserve *R. swainsonii* is a common resident. It occurs sympatrically with the Keel-billed Toucan (*R. sulfuratus*) in disturbed second-growth forest and in primary forest, where it dominates the smaller *R. sulfuratus* at feeding areas. Between feeding bouts in the early morning and again shortly before sunset, individuals were often observed singing in monotonous high-pitched yelps from the exposed branches of riverside *Cecropia* trees. On 20 October 1980 a tape recording was made of their song at Bulebar. This record is the northernmost for the species.

Hylophylax naevioides.—Spotted Antbird. This is another species that reaches its northern limit of distribution in the forests of northern Honduras. *H. naevioides* were commonly encountered in the forested regions of northeastern Honduras and as far west as La Ceiba, where they were observed in close association with swarms of army ants (*Eciton* sp.). On 27 February 1980 a female (LSUMZ 95041) was collected in the Cordillera Nombre de Dios (8 km south of Danto, 160 m). On 11 September a specimen with female plumage (LSUMZ 99917 alch.) was collected in the same vicinity. In the Platano River Biosphere Reserve a male (LSUMZ 99945) was collected on 12 November at Tuskruhuas, and another male (LSUMZ 99918 alch.) was netted on 30 January 1981 at Mairin

Tighni. The Danto records are the northernmost distribution locality of this species and the only known location north of the Cordillera Nombre de Dios. Monroe (1968: 393) mistakenly lists this species as occurring as far west as the Sula Valley; the four Honduran localities that he cites, however, are either south or east of the Cordillera.

Phaenostictus mcleannani.—Ocellated Antbird. Monroe (1968) remarked that he was surprised to find this species at a collecting site in Olancho (5 mi south of San Esteban) and noted that it is a rare bird even as far north as Nicaragua. I found *P. mcleannani* to be a fairly common resident throughout forested parts of Olancho and Gracias a Dios. During the course of fieldwork in the Platano River Biosphere Reserve I collected five specimens (LSUMZ 99920 alch., 27 October 1980, Bulebar; LSUMZ 99944 female, 9 November, Tuskruhuas; LSUMZ 99953 male skel., LSUMZ 99919 alch., and LSUMZ 99943 female, 30 January 1981, Mairin Tighni). *P. mcleannani* was frequently observed in close attendance at swarms of army ants, along with the Spotted Antbird and the Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*), as has also been observed for Panamanian birds (Willis 1973). *P. mcleannani* reaches its northern limit in the humid forests of northeast Honduras.

Myrmotherula axillaris.—White-flanked Antwren. There is only one previous record for this species in Honduras, a female collected in 1887 along the Segovia River in extreme southern Honduras by C. H. Townsend (Monroe 1968). On 30 January 1981 a female (LSUMZ 99942) was collected at the Mairin Tighni camp in the Platano River Biosphere Reserve. On 3 and 8 February *M. axillaris* was observed foraging in mixed-species flocks, where it searched epiphytes and vines growing on large trees. Its voice is a soft and plaintive *piah*. On one occasion it was associated with the same foraging flock as *M. fulviventris*. This record is the northern limit of their known distribution.

Hylopezus perspicillatus.—Streak-chested Antpitta. On 11 November 1980 a female (LSUMZ 99946) was netted in the low strata of primary wet evergreen forest near the Tuskruhuas River campsite. During the month of January 1981 *H. perspicillatus* was infrequently observed yet often heard singing a loud plaintive song from near the forest floor in the vicinity of Mairin Tighni in old second-growth wet evergreen forest. There are no previous Honduran records.

Colonia colonus.—Long-tailed Tyrant. In northeast Honduras this species is so common and conspicuous that it is surprising that there are only two previously published records: the Segovia River and Arenal, both in extreme southern Honduras. In the Platano River Biosphere Reserve *C. colonus* was frequently encountered in open and semi-open situations. In the coastal savanna near Kuri they nest in tree cavities excavated by Golden-fronted Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) in coconut palms growing throughout areas of human settlement. One individual was photographed at a nest hole in October 1980. They were often seen in the vicinity of Kuri, Bulebar, Las Marias, Tuskruhuas, and Mairin Tighni. Ridgely (pers. comm.) found them to be widespread near Aguas Calientes in Olancho. Northeast Honduras is the northern limit of their distribution.

Conopias parva.—White-ringed Flycatcher. This species was found to be a breeding resident along the Platano, Tuskruhuas, and Mairin Tighni rivers. They were commonly observed perching in the canopy or on high exposed dead limbs near river and stream borders and in the forest interiors; they were more often observed in open situations. This species was distinguished from the sympatric Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) by the broad white superciliary extending completely around the nape, the longer bill, and song type. A recording of their song was made at Bulebar. On 29 March 1979 a pair was observed southeast of Catacamas, Dept. Olancho, by R. S. Ridgely (pers. comm.). These observations suggest that this species, formally known to range only as far north as Costa Rica, is probably widespread in the forests of Olancho, Gracias a Dios, and in eastern Nicaragua. These are the first Honduran reports.

Cyporhinus phaeocephalus.—Song Wren. I observed a group of as many as five Song Wrens daily from 28 January to 9 February while I walked a daily census route along a trail at the Mairin Tighni camp. The wrens would become very disturbed by my approach and scold with a noisy and continuous *wree, wree, wree, wree* from a brush pile in old second-growth forest. These sightings and a tape recording are the northernmost record of their distribution. There is only one previous record for this species in Honduras, a female collected in 1887 at the Segovia River in southern Honduras by C. H. Townsend.

Dacnis cayana.—Blue Dacnis. While foraging

at the fringes of a mixed-species flock in the canopy of primary forest, a male was observed at length on 12 November 1980 along the Tuskruhuas River. In January 1981 pairs were infrequently seen in the vicinity of Bulebar, and Ridgely (pers. comm.) observed one pair on 28 March 1979 southeast of Catacamas, Olancho. This is another species formerly known to range as far north as Nicaragua that is apparently widespread, though uncommon, in the forests of Olancho and Gracias a Dios. These are the first reports from Honduras.

Vermivora ruficapilla.—Nashville Warbler. On 28 November 1979 an individual was netted in open woodland at Rosario, Dept. Morazán, 1,500 m, Parque Nacional La Tigra. The bird was photographed and released. *V. ruficapilla* has been recorded in the highlands of Guatemala (Land 1970) and has been sighted in Panama (Ridgely pers. comm.). This is the first Honduran record.

Cacicus uropygialis.—Scarlet-rumped Cacique. At the Mairin Tighni campsite *C. uropygialis* was first encountered on 28 January 1981, when a small group was observed in a mixed-species flock moving through the mid-strata of second-growth wet evergreen forest. While foraging, they sang a loud *didee dum*. On 3 February at the same location, a solitary male was seen displaying in a manner very similar to that of the Montezuma Oropendola (*Gymnostinops montezuma*). While perching on an exposed limb 20 m above the ground and not far from the canopy, it gave a quick squeaky two-note descending *eeoow eeoow* call followed by a soft crackling noise similar to the second of gurgling water or the crumpling of cellophane. With wings held slightly away from the body and thus exposing the bright scarlet rump, it leaned forward over the edge of the perch singing an *oodle oodle* song virtually identical to that of *G. montezuma* yet shorter in duration. This species is known from only one previous location in Honduras: a male collected at Arenal in 1953 by Howell (Monroe 1968). This is another of the humid forest inhabitants that reach the northern limit of their distribution in northeast Honduras.

The following is a list of those species for which only sight records exist and whose documentation needs to be substantiated further.

Mesembrinibis cayennensis.—Green Ibis. Two individuals were observed foraging together on an exposed muddy bank of the Platano River

10 km east (downstream) of Las Marias on 17 October 1980. These were observed in good lighting and were identified as *M. cayennensis* rather than the similar but larger immature White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) or the Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*), two species with which I am familiar. An effort was made to collect the birds, but upon my approach they flew into an impenetrable swampy grove and could not be pursued. In July 1980 Harry L. Bell (pers. comm.) identified a green ibis as *M. cayennensis* along the Platano River east of Las Marias. These sightings are the northernmost reports for this species. *M. cayennensis* is rare from the Panama Canal north and has been collected but twice in southern Costa Rica (Slud 1964), although there have been many sight records in recent years (Ridgely pers. comm.). Future workers will undoubtedly find this species locally through the Caribbean lowlands of Honduras and Nicaragua. This is the first report from Honduras.

Leucopternis semiplumbea.—Semiplumbeous Hawk. On February 7 1981 L. Benshoof, T. Logan, and I observed one individual at length while it perched within 2 m of the forest floor near the Mairin Tighni camp. It was identified as *L. semiplumbea* rather than the similar *Micrastur mirandollei*, both being species with which I am familiar, by the presence of orange cere and legs. This is the northernmost report for this species. The specimen collected by C. H. Townsend along the Segovia River in 1887 is the only previous Honduran record (Monroe 1968).

Myrmotherula fulviventris.—Checker-throated Antwren. This species was uncommonly encountered in the Platano River Biosphere Reserve at Mairin Tighni. Monroe (1968) listed this species as reaching the northern limit of distribution in the Olancho forests of eastern Honduras based on the specimen collected at the Segovia River in 1887 and the specimen from Arenal in 1953, both locations being in extreme southern Honduras along the Nicaraguan border. On 5 February 1981 *M. fulviventris* was encountered on two separate occasions foraging in a mixed-species flock in old second-growth wet evergreen forest. It foraged in dense vine thickets and probed curled dead leaves for insects, which is their foraging technique in Costa Rica (Skutch 1969) and Panama (Gradwohl and Greenberg 1982, pers. obs.). While foraging, they gave a high-pitched, two-note call and an ascending *churr*. On 8 February they

were again encountered in a mixed-species flock foraging in dense vine thickets. These reports are the northernmost for the species.

Myrmeciza exsul.—Chestnut-backed Antbird. On 29 March 1979 Ridgely observed one singing male in the vicinity of Cerro Las Perlas southeast of Catacamas, Dept. Olancho. There are no previous Honduran reports for this species, formerly known to range as far north as Nicaragua.

Myiozetetes granadensis.—Gray-capped Flycatcher. On 19 January 1981 an individual was observed at close range as it perched in an *Acacia* tree along the Platano River at Bulebar. This represents the northernmost report. It is known previously in Honduras from two specimens collected at Arenal in 1955 by Howell, a single specimen from the Guampu River collected by R. R. Graber in 1963 (Monroe 1968), and several pairs observed by Ridgely on 30 March 1979 at Aguas Calientes, Dept. Olancho.

Lophotriccus pileatus.—Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant. On 29 March 1979 Ridgely observed one individual and heard others in the vicinity of Cerro Las Perlas southeast of Catacamas, Dept. Olancho. This is the first report from Honduras. They were previously known to range as far north as Costa Rica.

Tachyphonus delatrii.—Tawny-crested Tanager. A foraging flock of 10–15 individuals was observed in the middle and upper strata of primary wet evergreen forest near the Tuskrhuas campsite on 10 November 1980. These were identified by the uniform black plumage and the orange crest of the male. While foraging, they uttered sharp metallic *chink* call notes. One bird was observed eating a large green immature grasshopper (Orthoptera) on a horizontal leaf; the insect was first dismembered with the bird's bill and then swallowed in individual pieces. This species has not previously been reported from Honduras.

Pitylus grossus.—Slate-colored Grosbeak. One individual was observed on 9 November 1980 in primary wet evergreen forest near the Tuskrhuas campsite. It foraged in dense foliage 5–10 m above the forest floor along the fringes of a mixed-species flock. While searching the foliage, it called a loud single note: *pueeah*. This is the first report for Honduras of yet another species previously known to occur as far north as Nicaragua.

Sporophila schistacea.—Slate-colored Seedeater. Individuals carefully identified as this species were observed during every month of

TABLE 1. Species which have reached their known northern distribution in Nicaragua but whose presence is expected in adjacent regions of Honduras.

Pearl Kite	<i>Gampsonyx swansonii</i>
Tiny Hawk	<i>Accipiter superciliosus</i>
Violaceous Quail Dove	<i>Geotrygon violacea</i>
Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>
Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Neomorphus geoffroyi</i>
Short-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aenea</i>
Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia amabilis</i>
Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>
Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>
Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>
Striped Leaf-gleaner	<i>Hyloctistes subulatus</i>
Wing-banded Antbird	<i>Myrmornis torquata</i>
Fulvous-bellied Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus fulviventris</i>
Black-and-White Becard	<i>Pachyramphus albogriseus</i>
Tawny-chested Flycatcher	<i>Aphanotriccus capitalis</i>
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus thoracicus</i>
Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>
Black-throated Wren	<i>Thryothorus atrogularis</i>
Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>
Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Carmioli's Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>
Great-billed Seed Finch	<i>Oryzoborus maximiliani</i>

the year (1979–1980) at the Lancetilla Botanical Gardens, where they roosted, sang, fed, and presumably nested in the flowering and fruiting clumps of bamboo (*Bambuseae*) along the banks of the Tela River. These birds generally perched 5–15 m above the forest floor in either bamboo or in a tree close to bamboo clumps and repeatedly sang a long high-pitched trill. On 5 March 1981 an individual singing at great length in old second-growth moist evergreen forest along the Tela River was observed by myself, J. Baird, and a natural history tour group. *S. schistacea* was frequently observed along the north coast of Honduras between Tela and La Ceiba during 1979–1980. It is presumed to be increasing its range in Central America due to the spread of introduced bamboo, the seeds of which appear to be an important food source; they were not present at all in Lance-

tilla 15 yr ago (Monroe pers. comm.). Willis and Eisenmann (1979) suggest that *S. schistacea* wanders widely to areas of bamboo seed crops. This is the first Honduran report.

DISCUSSION

The topography of Honduras acts as a major filter barrier affecting the distribution of many neotropical species north of Panama by constricting and breaking up the vast expanse of lowland evergreen forests (Monroe 1968). There exist two major environmental and orthographic obstacles limiting northern and western distributions of the lowland forest species of Olancho and Gracias a Dios: in western Honduras the terrain is a semi-arid highland dominated by pine (*Pinus oocarpa*) and oak (*Quercus* spp.), and the north coast is flanked by the Cordillera Nombre de Dios running parallel to the coastline and exceeding 2,400 m in elevation. This latter mountain range effectively divides the arid interior from the humid coastal plain. There are presently at least 34 bird species (Monroe lists 21 and 13 additional species are recorded here) that range into Olancho and Gracias a Dios but have not yet been recorded north and west of this region due, perhaps, to the presence of this barrier. The constricted corridor and low elevation of the Cordillera Nombre de Dios in the vicinity of Trujillo offer the only continuous north-south corridor in Honduras for the dispersal of lowland species, which are restricted to humid evergreen forests. Species such as *Lanio leucothorax* and *Ortalis cinereiceps* reach their northern limit of distribution in Olancho and are replaced by an allospecies, *L. aurantius* and *O. vetula*, respectively, north of the Cordillera. It appears that this mountain range is also an effective barrier filtering mammalian and floral distributions (Marcus in prep.).

Monroe (1968) lists 663 bird species known to occur in Honduras. The additions of *Sterna albifrons* and *S. dougallii* (Udvardy et al. 1973), *Sula dactylatra*, *Pluvialis dominica*, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, *Larus delawarensis*, *L. atricilla*, and *Sterna sandvicensis* (Brown and Monroe 1974), the spread of *Passer domesticus* into Honduras (Avedillo 1977), and the 16 species herein reported bring the total known Honduran avifauna to 688 species. At the present time there are at least 26 additional species known to range

northward as far as Nicaragua that have not yet been recorded in Honduras (Table 1). It is likely that many of these also will be found to occur in Honduras, particularly in the adjacent forested areas of Olancho and Gracias a Dios. The Honduran Mosquitia and the Caribbean slope are in need of further ornithological research; these central areas are also in need of additional parks and reserves with ample protection from deforestation and poaching. At the present time three species (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, *Conopias parva*, *Lophotriccus pileatus*) are known from Costa Rica and Honduras but not from Nicaragua.

It is expected that as many as 54 additional species now known to occur as migrants or accidentals in adjacent countries and the Caribbean may be found as winter residents or accidentals in Honduras (from Peterson and Chalif 1973). The Pacific lowlands, interior highlands, islands in the Gulf of Fonseca, the Bay Islands, and the Mosquito coast should be particularly fruitful regions for investigations of migrant and transient species. Already Honduras is known to support a richer avifauna than any of the adjacent countries, and the above analysis suggests that many more species are likely to be found.

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JOSEPH GRINNELL MEDAL

George A. Bartholomew, Professor of Biology at the University of California at Los Angeles, has been selected to receive the **Joseph Grinnell Medal in Vertebrate Zoology** in honor of his distinguished research achievements in scientific natural history. The Grinnell Award commemorates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, where Grinnell served as its first director and pioneered the development of natural history as a scientific discipline. The award will be presented at a formal ceremony on Friday, 11 November 1983, at Berkeley.