

## AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, AND LONG- TAILED JAEGER IN OAXACA, MÉXICO

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In the course of a comprehensive distributional survey of the avifauna of the Mexican state of Oaxaca, my field companions and I obtained specimens of three species of birds for which there appear to be no previous, reliable specimen records for the country of México. All specimens are study skins on deposit in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology at Baton Rouge.

Audubon's Shearwater. *Puffinus lherminieri*. On 29 September 1961 I collected a lone male (133.9 g, LSUMZ 27354) on the Pacific Ocean 3 mi. off Puerto Ángel. At the same locality on 9 October 1961, Delwyn G. Berrett, Franklin M. Berrett, and I observed three birds, two of which were collected (133.1 g, LSUMZ 27355, Binford; and 147.3 g, LSUMZ 27356, D. G. Berrett). All three specimens were moderately fat and had very small testes. Measurements (mm) of the dried skins are, respectively: wing (chord), 193, 180, and 189; tail, 76, 73, and 75. The small dimensions, as well as the presence of white in the under tail coverts and the absence of dark coloration on the sides of the breasts, place the Oaxaca birds in *P. l. subalaris* Ridgway, the breeding race of the Galápagos Islands. The range of this subspecies is depicted by R. S. Palmer (Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 1. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1962: map on p. 201) as extending north to southwestern México. When questioned on this point, however, Palmer (in litt.) was unable to produce specific Mexican records. W. R. P. Bourne (in litt.) informs me of several Central American records but knows of none from México. *P. l. lherminieri* Lesson, the race occurring in the Caribbean, also has not been recorded from México. It would appear, therefore, that the Oaxaca specimens represent the first Mexican occurrences for the species and the northwesternmost records in the entire range of the race *subalaris*.

Each leg of the specimen taken on 29 September exhibited the following colors, recorded shortly after collection and before preparation: lateral surface of tarsus and entire outer toe black; medial surface of tarsus and all webs flesh-colored; inner toe black below and flesh-colored above; middle toe black below and flesh-colored above, with black-tinged joints. The irides were gray-brown. R. C. Murphy (Oceanic birds of South America. Vol. 2. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York 1936. p. 684-689) does not give leg and foot colors for *P. l. subalaris*, while for the nominate race he makes no mention of black on the lower

surfaces of the inner and middle toes or on the joints of the middle toe above.

Hudsonian Godwit. *Limosa haemastica*. Although I have spent many days observing shorebirds in Oaxaca, I have encountered this species only twice, both times on the mud flats at the extreme southwestern corner of Laguna Superior, 19 mi. by road SW of Juchitán. On 15 May 1961 Larry L. Wolf collected a male that was feeding in shallow brackish water near a flock of Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*). The specimen (LSUMZ 24240) was very fat (241.0 g), and had testes measuring 10 × 5 mm each. Although the same area was searched carefully on each of the next two days, no Hudsonian Godwits were seen. On 18 May 1961, however, I took a lone male bird (181.9 g, slightly fat, left testis 7 × 3 mm, right testis 4 × 2 mm, LSUMZ 24241) as it flew past me low over the mud flats. Both birds were in fresh-plumaged breeding aspect.

I can find only five published Mexican records for the Hudsonian Godwit. E. R. Blake (Birds of Mexico. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, 1953. p. 140) mentions a bird seen by L. Irby Davis and the late Richard A. Herbert "at Salina Cruz," Oaxaca, in July 1952. According to Davis (in litt.) this bird actually was seen on 13 July at a lagoon just west of the village of Ventosa. A photograph of the bird taken by Herbert cannot now be located easily (Mrs. R. A. Herbert, in litt.). B. B. Coffey, Jr. (Auk 77:292, 1960) lists four of his own sight records: two birds seen on 12 May 1957 along the Victoria highway 46 mi. S of Matamoros, Tamaulipas; four birds on 19 April 1958 at a point 36 mi. S of Matamoros; and single birds on 31 May 1957 and 20 April 1958 at kilometer marker 9, east of Cacalilao, Veracruz. The present specimens are the first and second taken in México.

Long-tailed Jaeger. *Stercorarius longicaudus*. On 21 April 1964, in company with John J. Morony, I collected an immature female on open ocean 3 mi. off Puerto Ángel. The specimen (LSUMZ 33015) weighed 298.0 g, was very fat, possessed an ovary measuring 12 × 4 mm, and exhibited pale greenish-blue tarsi and black feet. The only other reference to the occurrence of this species in Mexican waters is given by Friedmann et al. (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 29, pt. 1: footnote on p. 103, 1950), who mention a sighting of two jaegers of questionable identity off Baja California on 17 September 1896, and who consider as of uncertain origin a specimen of *longicaudus* in the Museo Nacional, Mexico City, no. 442, labelled simply "México."

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## NEW BREEDING RECORDS OF *TOXOSTOMA CURVIROSTRE* AND *T. BENDIREI* IN NEW MEXICO

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The breeding ranges of the Curve-billed (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) and Bendire's (*Toxostoma bendirei*)

Thrashers in New Mexico are larger than indicated by Bailey (1928), A.O.U. (1957), and Ligon (1961). Breeding localities given by these sources are indicated in figure 1.

In the summer of 1968 I traveled throughout most of New Mexico to determine more precisely the ranges of these species. New localities given here represent records either of nests or of recently fledged juveniles. Specimens were collected at all localities but one.

*T. curvirostre*. I found this species at the following localities: (1) extreme NE Union County; (2) 1 mi.

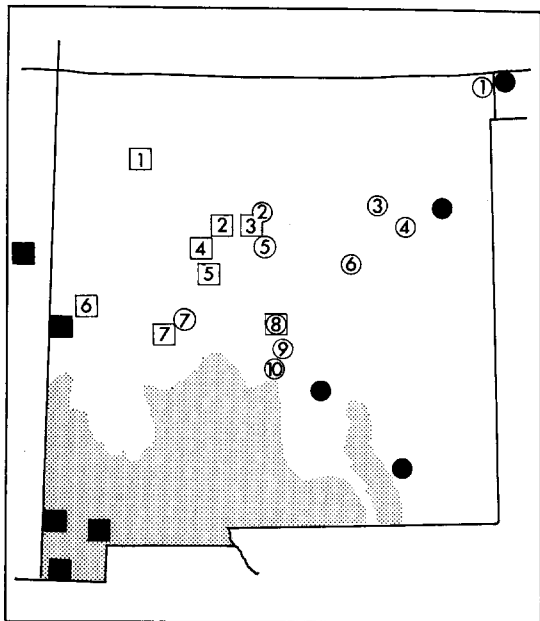


FIGURE 1. Breeding ranges of *Toxostoma curvirostre* and *T. bendirei* in New Mexico. Shaded areas and dark circles show previously known breeding localities for *T. curvirostre*; dark squares, those for *T. bendirei*. New records for *T. curvirostre* are indicated by numbered circles and for *T. bendirei* by numbered squares. The Arizona record is from Phillips et al. (1964), the Oklahoma locality from Sutton (1967).

N Rosario, Santa Fe County; (3) 15 mi. NW Variadero, San Miguel County; (4) 6 mi. S, 6 mi. W Conchas Dam, San Miguel County; (5) 1 mi. E, ½ mi. N Cedar Grove, Santa Fe County; (6) 18 mi. W Santa Rosa, Guadalupe County; (7) 10 mi. N Magdalena, Socorro County; (8) 6 mi. N Claunch, Socorro County; (9) 23 mi. N, 3 mi. W Carrizozo, Lincoln County; (10) 23 mi. ESE Bingham, Lincoln County. (Numbers in parentheses correspond to numbered circles in fig. 1.)

The breeding range of *T. curvirostre* may have increased in New Mexico following the spread of cholla cactus (primarily *Opuntia imbricata*), which has been due in many cases to overgrazing of grasslands (Castetter, 1956:263, 267). I have not recorded this species in areas lacking cholla.

## SECOND RECORD OF OVENBIRD IN NEVADA

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In the course of a summer field program at the Foresta Institute near Carson City, Nevada, an Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, was found in the freezer of the laboratory building. The bird had been obtained a year previously, on 22 July 1968, near Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada, by Mrs. Margaret Wheat.

Although completely dehydrated, the specimen was salvaged and a recognizable skin prepared; it bears

*T. bendirei*. Contrary to previous statements, the species is widespread in New Mexico and is common in many areas in the western half of the state. It breeds in most of Arizona but is listed infrequently outside that state (Phillips et al. 1964:123). Bent (1948:383, 389) mentions reports of *T. bendirei* from western New Mexico; however, specific localities are confined to the extreme southwestern portion. I recorded *T. bendirei* from: (1) Chaco Canyon National Monument, San Juan County; (2) 10 mi. W Corrales, Sandoval County; (3) 7 mi. W Madrid, Sandoval County; (4) 20 mi. W Albuquerque, Bernalillo County; (5) 10 mi. W, 1.5 mi. S Los Lunas, Valencia County; (6) 6 mi. NW Quemado, Catron County; (7) 12 mi. WSW Magdalena, Socorro County; (8) 6 mi. N Claunch, Socorro County. (Numbers in parentheses correspond to numbered squares in fig. 1.)

*T. bendirei* also nests in cholla (Bent 1948:384) but more frequently utilizes juniper, principally *Juniperus monosperma* (14 of 16 nests were situated in juniper). Castetter (1956:270) states that areas occupied by scattered junipers have greatly expanded during the last 75 years as a result of overgrazing. This relatively recent development may account for the apparent range extension of *T. bendirei*. The paucity of earlier records for much of New Mexico may also be due to the wary nature of the species and the scarcity of observers.

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the field number 3652 MDA, and is in the collections of the Foresta Institute. The plumage indicates that the bird was adult, but no skull determination could be made, nor could it be sexed. The bird must be assumed, at that time of year, to have lost its way in migration since there is no suitable area around Fallon for the breeding of this species. The bird was not noticeably emaciated, nor was the plumage worn to any extent.

Records are sparse for this species in the southwestern states, and there appears to be but one earlier specimen for Nevada, even though it is logical to assume their migration through that state. The bird reported was one found 4 mi. W of Fallon by J. R. Alcorn on 12 June 1941.

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