ORNITOLOGIA NEOTROPICAL 13: 381–396, 2002 © The Neotropical Ornithological Society

# STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF THE AVIFAUNA OF THE YAXCHILÁN NATURAL MONUMENT, CHIAPAS, MÉXICO

# Fernando Puebla-Olivares, Emir Rodríguez-Ayala, Blanca E. Hernández-Baños, & Adolfo G. Navarro S.

Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apartado Postal 70-399, México, D.F. 04510, México.

**Resumen. – Estatus y conservación de la avifauna del Monumento Natural Yaxchilán, Chiapas, México. –** Se presenta una lista de la avifauna encontrada en el área protegida de Yaxchilán, Chiapas, México. Un total de 235 especies fue registrado en la zona, 75.7% de las cuales fueron residentes permanentes, 19.6% residentes de invierno, y 4.8% residentes de verano o pertenecientes a otras categorías estacionales. Dado el buen estado de conservación de la zona, se registran poblaciones importantes de especies catalogadas en alguna categoría de amenaza como el Águila Arpía (*Harpia harpyja*) y otras, de las cuales se hace mención. Se mencionan además registros importantes para la avifauna mexicana como un ejemplar mexicano del Fandanguero Pechiescamoso (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) y el primer registro en México del Hormiguero Calvo (*Gymnocichla nudiceps*).

**Abstract.** – An avifaunal list of the Yaxchilán Natural Monument, Chiapas, Mexico, is presented. A total of 235 species was recorded, 75.7% of which were permanent residents, 19.6% winter residents, and 4.8% summer residents and of other seasonal categories. Given the pristine status of the area, populations of globally endangered species such as the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), among others, were recorded and are mentioned. The area provided new and interesting records for the Mexican avifauna, including a specimen of Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) and the first Mexican record of Bare-crowned Antbird (*Gymnocichla nudiceps*). Accepted 22 February 2002.

Key words: Avifauna, Yaxchilán, Chiapas, Mexico.

# INTRODUCTION

Yaxchilán, a protected area located in the State of Chiapas, México, has a great value for conservation. First because it is located in the easternmost section of the state of Chiapas, in one of the most important remains of pristine tropical vegetation of the country. Also because, as in several areas of northern Central America, some of the sites where conservation of biological systems has been possible are also very valuable for containing important archaeological Maya sites. Thus, efforts are made to preserve their biological and cultural values entirely. Yaxchilán is located in the Central Maya Lowlands, an area where Maya culture arose in the Preclassic Period, during the Olmec Empire splendor in eastern Mexico, and whose cultural influence extended south to Costa Rica (SEMARNAP-INE-CONABIO 1995).

The biological diversity found in this relatively small area is astonishing, in spite of being relatively dryer than the adjacent rain forests of Chajul and Montes Azules (González-García 1993). Therefore, efforts



FIG. 1. Geographic location of the "Monumento Natural Yaxchilán" in Chiapas, Mexico.

should be directed to make a detailed study of the biological richness of the region, and promote its conservation and educational value.

The results presented herein are part of a major collaborative research among biologists and anthropologists to evaluate biological diversity of the area, and establish the basis for a more general conservation plan. Thus, the main objective of this contribution is to provide a list of the birds of the region, highlighting noteworthy species and adding information for future conservation strategies.

#### STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The Yaxchilán Natural Monument is located at a bend of the Usumacinta River (16°53'N, 90°58.60'W; Fig. 1). The official boundaries are specified in a Presidencial Ordinance of 24 August 1992 that preserved an area of 2621 hectares, most of it "ejidos" and communal land, although the archaeological zone is federal property (SEMARNAP-INE-CONABIO 1995). The archaeological zone is now under care of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and has adequate installations for housing personnel. Access to the zone is by air, or by land arriving to Palenque, and from there to the town Frontera Corozal, then by boat through the Usumacinta River to Yaxchilán.

Yaxchilán is part of the Lacandona Forest, one of the most inaccessible and biologically unknown regions from Chiapas, that has been assigned to the "Eastern Highlands" phytogeographic region of Breedlove (1970), where several low montane zones decline gradually toward the drainage of the Usumacinta River. The soils of the Lacandona region are constituted of limestones, with gritty and volcanic extrusions, and with a range of elevation from 400-1500 m. Vegetation is relatively uniform, with tropical rain forest being the most common type. However, patches of low savanna, as well as dispersed palm-tree forests, are common. The rain forest is present in the flat areas at the upper drainage of the Usumacinta. The floristic associations of this area are continuous with those of the Petén in Guatemala, both containing a large number of endemic plant species (Breedlove 1970).

At Yaxchilán, the dominant vegetation type is tropical rain forest (Meave del Castillo *et al.* in prep.), but fragments of secondary vegetation are common in areas adjacent to the archaeological zone and the camp of the INAH. The vegetation that is found along the course of the Usumacinta River is known in the zone as "jimbal," because of the presence of *Guadua* sp., and is characterized by the presence of plants similar to "carrizo". Three arboreal strata are present. The highest is composed of trees 50–60 m in height with straight and butressed trunks emergent above the canopy. A medium-height stratum forms a continuous canopy to a height of 25-40 m. The third stratum is composed of trees with branches to a height of 10-20 m. Understory shrubs and grasses are practically absent and the epiphytes are present only in the highest stratum (Breedlove 1970, Pennington & Sarukhán 1998). Some of the most common trees in the canopy are Apidosperma megalocarpa, Brosimum alicastrum, Dialium guianense, Swietenia macrophylla, Erblichia xilocarpa, Guatteria anomalous, Manilkara achras, Poulsenia armata and Terminalia amazonia. The common trees of the subcanopy are Alchornea latifolia, Alibertia edulis, Belotia cambelli, Bumelia persimili, Cassia grandis, Blepharidium mexicanum, Bursera simaruba, Guarea excelsa, Hasseltia dioica, Licaria pekii, Orthion subsessile, Pithecelobium arboreum, Quararibea funebris, Wimmeria bartletii and Zuelania guidonia (Breedlove 1970).

Field work was performed by two to five researchers every two months, from December of 1997 to February of 1999 completing a total of 70 days of fieldwork. Surveys of the avifauna were made using mist-nets (approx. 8040 mist net hours) and gathering observational and sound records from the area. Selected specimens were obtained of as many species as possible to construct a voucher collection of skins, skeletons, and frozen tissue samples, deposited at the Museo de Zoología "Alfonso L. Herrera", Facultad de Ciencias, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (MZFC), in Mexico City. Data for specimens and sight records were included in a database elaborated by using the BIOTICA 2.0 software of CONABIO (1997) for easy management.

An estimate of the abundance of each species during the study was obtained through a classification of the percentage of the total field days (70 for residents, 42 for migrants) in which a species was recorded. Four classes are used: Rare (1–7%), uncommon (8–29%), common (30–57%), and very common (58–100%); relative abundance



FIG. 2. Accumulation curve of species recorded and hypothetical total number of species (Gutiérrez 1984) in Yaxchilán.

assignation for each species is depicted in Appendix 1.

Additional information on the region's avifauna was obtained from Howell (1989) and the few previously collected specimens from the area. Those specimens are housed in the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada (CMN, six specimens) and the National Natural History Museum in Paris, France (MNHNP, 209 specimens), all collected by the J. L. Mottron and R. Magris expeditions between 1974 and 1976 (C. Jouanin pers. com.). Taxonomy follows AOU (1998).

#### RESULTS

Yaxchilán is a site of high bird diversity. Of the approximately 1060 species of birds recorded in Mexico, 425 (40.1%) have been recorded in Chiapas, and 222 (20.94%) were recorded in the locality of Yaxchilán by us, plus thirteen extra species recorded only by specimens in other museums, e.g., the Blackbilled Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), the Ferruginous Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*), and the Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*) in MNHNP (Appendix 1), for a total of 235 species. Thus, of the total of species recorded in Chiapas, 55% occur in the relatively small area of Yaxchilán (2621 ha) in comparison with larger nearby reserves e.g., Montes Azules (300 species in 331,200 ha), Calakmul (235 species in 723,185 ha), El Ocote (more than 350 species in 48,140 ha), or Monumento Natural Bonampak (300 species in 4357ha) (SEMARNAP-INE-CONA-BIO 1995).

Analysis of the accumulation curve for species recorded by dates of field work was adjusted through an exponential growth model employed to compare predicted number of species (Gutiérrez 1984). This estimate suggests that most of the avifauna that occurs at the site was recorded (Fig. 2, Appendix 1).



FIG. 3. Species richness by seasonal status in the different field trips.

Species recorded belong to 45 families of 17 orders of birds, 75.7% of which (178 species) are permanent residents, 19.6% (46 species) are winter residents, and 4.8% are either summer residents or accidental in the region (11 species). The Tyrannidae family shows the highest species richness (27 spp.), followed by Parulidae (20 spp.), Thraupidae (15 spp.), Icteridae (12 spp), Trochilidae (11 spp.), Cardinalidae (10 spp.), Accipitridae (9 spp.), Ardeidae (8 spp.), Picidae (7 spp.), Dendrocolaptidae (7 spp.) and Columbidae (7 spp.). A voucher collection of 531 specimens from 108 species was constructed (Appendix 1).

The distribution of species richness by seasonal status through the year showed an interesting pattern. The highest richness of permanent and winter residents was recorded in February and April, while lowest values were obtained in June (Fig. 3).

Added value to the conservation of birds of the area is the presence of an important set of species that are classified as threatened either globally, [e.g., Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) and Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiro-leucus*) (Collar *et al.* 1992, BirdLife International 2000)], or nationally as threatened or endangered (21 species, DOF 1994, Appendix 1).

Given the pristine status of conservation of vegetation at Yaxchilán, and the relatively poor ornithological knowledge of the area, some species are noteworthy and are present sometimes with important and healthy populations.

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

*King Vulture* (Sarcoramphus papa). This species is a rare resident of the area and was only recorded on 10 and 11 February 1998 in a patch of grass adjacent to the ruins, and on 20 August 1998 at the Usumacinta River.

Harpy Eagle (Harpia harpyja). On 6 and 7 April, and 26 1998 June, we observed one

individual of this highly endangered eagle soaring low over the canopy of well-preserved rain forest. This species is typically associated with pristine vegetation, and its presence indicates the good situation of the habitat. This is one of the scarce recent records of the species in Mexico (Escalante & Peterson 1993, Morales-Pérez 1998) and it is considered rare in the area.

*Black Hawk Eagle* (Spizaetus tyrannus). This species is a rare resident in the area and was observed on 10 February and 23 and 25 August 1998, perching at the top of a tall tree at the rain forest edge close to the ruins.

*Ornate Hawk Eagle* (Spizaetus ornatus). This eagle is also a rare resident in the region, only one individual was observed perching inside the canopy of well-preserved rain forest on 31 October 1998.

*Orange-breasted Falcon* (Falco deiroleucus). This falcon is considered an uncommon resident of tropical rain forests in Middle America. However, it is a rare resident in the locality because only one individual was observed perching in a dead tree close to the ruins on 7 February 1998. This record is the first published for Chiapas and one of few records for Mexico. Although Howell & Webb (1995) mention that the only known specimens from Mexico come from Tecolutla, Veracruz, other specimens are known from Chiapas (Ocosingo, FMNH).

*Crested Guan* (Penelope purpurascens). Healthy populations of this declining cracid were observed during several months of the year, flying and foraging at the mediumheight stratum of the forest. In the area it is an uncommon species; however, local people informed us that it is more commonly observed during the dry season (october to may). *Great Curassow* (Crax rubra). Although not recorded directly by us, locals informed us that scattered individuals are present at Yax-chilán during the dry season. The species was recorded from nearby areas in Montes Azules by González-García (1993).

Scarlet Macaw (Ara macao). Groups of 30 to 40 individuals were observed year-round flying high up the canopy. We considered this species common in the area; however, given the illegal trade in this macaw, Yaxchilán and nearby reserves in northern Chiapas and Guatemala might represent one the few refuges for this species in northern Central America (Iñigo-Elías 2000).

Short-tailed Nighthawk (Lurocalis semitorquatus). This rare and elusive nightjar was first sight recorded for Mexico by Howell (1989) at Yaxchilán, with further observations in other sites in Chiapas and in northern Central America (no specimens available yet, Howell & Webb 1995). No records of this species were obtained by us during the field work, although a special effort was devoted to locate it in suitable habitat. The seasonal and taxonomic status of the populations in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras remain unknown.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (Phaeochroa cuvierii). First recorded in Mexico by Feltner (1976) and Howell (1989) who recorded the species in breeding condition at Yaxchilán, and later by González-García (1993) in the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve. One male (MZFC 14887) was collected on 10 February 1998, in a patch of rain-forest, constituting one of the three known Mexican specimens. The other two were collected by J. L. Mottron (Allan R. Phillips' collection) at Yaxchilán on 22 October 1974 and are deposited at the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa. *Buff-bellied Hummingbird* (Amazilia yucatanensis). One specimen (MZFC 14888) was collected on 3 November 1998. This record is the southernmost for the species in Mexico and expands its known distributional area south to eastern Chiapas.

Bare-crowned Antbird (Gymnocichla nudiceps). This antbird inhabits the tropical rain forests of eastern Guatemala and southern Belize to Honduras. An adult male of this species was observed and unmistakably identified at Yaxchilán in November 1996, foraging in the undergrowth of dense primary rain forest. This is the first Mexican record of the species and represent a range extension of approximately 223 km northwest of its closest known locality at the Belize-Guatemala border [based on Howell & Webb's (1995) map for the species]. The species was not observed again in subsequent visits, which suggests that it is very rare or that its presence in Mexico is accidental.

Northern Royal Flycatcher (Onychorhynchus "coronatus" mexicanus). This species is often considered as an uncommon resident of humid lowland forests, especially associated with rivers (Howell & Webb 1995). The species is an uncommon resident in the area, inhabiting the dense primary vegetation, forest edges, trails, and semiopen areas near the ruins. Specimens were obtained year round (MZFC 14725-29, Feb to Sept 1998). The population in Yaxchilán might constitute one of the most important in northern Central America because the specie is typically associated with pristine vegetation.

Lovely Cotinga (Cotinga amabilis). Individuals of this uncommon species were observed foraging on fruits of a *Ficus* tree near the ruins several times in December 1997 and August 1998. White-browed Wren (Thryothorus albinucha). One specimen (MZFC 14633) was collected on 24 August 1998, partly filling the distributional gap depicted in Howell & Webb (1995) between northeasternmost Chiapas and Guatemala.

Green Honeycreeper (Chlorophanes spiza). Four specimens of this uncommon species were collected on 7–9 April 1998 (MZFC 14427-28) and 14–15 December 1997 (MZFC 144429-30). The individuals were foraging on fruits of a vine in a *Ficus* tree as part of a mixed-species flock in the lowest stratum of the tree canopy near the ruins. Additional specimens were collected in 1974 (MNHNP).

*Blue Seedeater* (Amaurospiza concolor). This is an uncommon and very local resident of the mid-elevation brushland and forests, often associated with bamboo (Howell & Webb 1995). Records of this species in Middle America are very scarce and seldom published. One adult male of this rare and elusive seedeater was obtained in a patch of jimbal (*Guadua* sp.) on 29 August 1998 (MZFC 14736). This record expands its known distribution 160 km northeast from the closest known locality in Chiapas (Socoltenango, MLZ 35253).

*Blue Bunting* (Cyanocompsa parellina). One specimen (MZFC 14434) was obtained on 23 June 1998, expanding the known range of the species in Mexico approximately 63 km south from the outlined distribution of Howell & Webb (1995) in eastern Tabasco.

*Spot-breasted Oriole* (Icterus pectoralis). Three specimens collected in 1974 by the Mottron-Magris expedition (MNHNP 1975.974-76) constitutes de northernmost records of this species in Chiapas, mainly restricted to the Pacific lowlands of Middle America and occasional in the central valleys of Guatemala (Howell & Webb 1995).

#### DISCUSSION

The high species richness found at Yaxchilán is likely to increase as more survey effort is devoted. Although predictive models suggest that most of the avifauna has been recorded, special effort should be devoted looking for nocturnal birds (e.g. Bubo, Chordeiles), transient migrants [e.g., Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsonii), Broad-winged Hawk (B. platypterus), Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus), Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica), Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus), and Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minimus)], and other winter residents that must be present in the region but have been unrecorded for lack of surveying in the right season of the year. With the information available, however, it is possible to discuss the importance of the region for knowledge of Mexican birds and for conservation.

The avifauna of Yaxchilán is unique in several ways, especially because geographic location and avifaunal data suggest that it may represent the contac zone of different sets of bird faunas. First, it is characterized by small populations of species found nowhere else in Mexico [e.g., Short-tailed Nighthawk (Lurocalis semitorquatus), White-whiskered Puffbird (Malacoptila panamensis), Bare-crowned Antbird, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird], that belong to the Central American Atlantic moist forest ecoregion (Dinerstein et al. 1995) and might reach the easternmost Chiapas in their western distributional limit. Other species with similar distribution patterns [e.g., Crested Eagle (Morphnus guianensis), Olivaceous Piculet (Picumnus olivaceus), Whitewinged Becard (Pachyramphus polychopterus)], "hearsay" recorded in Mexico for long time, may well be present in the region as casuals. Finally, several species characteristic of the dryer semideciduous tropical forest of the Yucatan Peninsula (e.g., White-browed Wren, Buff-bellied Hummingbird) found here their southern distributional limit. Those species coexist widely with the species's rich avifauna of the rain forest of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and the Pacific lowlands (e.g.,Spotbreasted Oriole). Thus, from the biogeographic point of view, Yaxchilán and nearby areas are a region that deserves deeper studies involving full biotas for explaining the causes of such a complex species composition.

Yaxchilán is also unique in having healthy populations of rain-forest species considered uncommon or rare in other regions of the country [e.g., Grey-chested Dove (Leptotila cassinii), White-whiskered Puffbird, Northern Royal Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Jacamar (Galbula ruficauda). At the same time, some healthy populations of species with a conservation status are also present [e.g., Scarlet Macaw, Harpy Eagle, Solitary Eagle (Harpyhaliaetus solitarius)]; see Species Accounts). It is also of interest to note the almost complete absence of human-related species like the House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), or cowbirds (Molothrus spp.), and the rarity of Great-tailed Grackles (Quiscalus mexicanus). These data supply important information about the good conservation status of the habitats of the region, and their importance as a key conservation area for a very particular fauna in northern Central America.

The complexity in composition, structure and function of the tropical rain forests, make them very vulnerable to human perturbation. In the last 30 years, the original area of the tropical rain forest in Mexico has been drastically reduced, with less than 10% left in good preservation condition (Flores-Villela & Gerez 1994). Habitat destruction is advancing at a very fast rate, human settlements are more numerous, and many taxa are exploited for the illegal pet trade (e.g., many of the parrot taxa found in the area). To be successful, conservation efforts in the tropics should become a multidisciplinary issue, involving taxonomists, ecologists, anthropologists, economists, and politicians (SEMARNAP-INE-CONABIO 1995) working with local people to develop action plans and strategies for preservation and use of biological diversity.

Biological information at several levels of biodiversity studies (taxonomic, ecological, and genetic) is strongly needed for a multitude of protected areas in the world. While many efforts are devoted recently to detect, with biological criteria, priority areas for bird conservation in the world (e.g., Wege & Long 1995) and in Mexico (e.g., Arizmendi & Márquez 2000), some areas have been declared as important for conservation, although they lack a biological survey that accounts for its biological importance.

Although we presented only the results obtained in the bird survey, similar information exists for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and flora, that will be published elsewhere (Meave & Luis in prep.). This model of gathering information from different sources, and analyzing it in a broad context, has been successful in Mexico for several preserved areas, e.g., Omiltemi, Guerrero (Luna & Llorente 1993), Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz (González-Soriano et al. 1997), and the Sierra de la Laguna and El Vizcaíno, Baja California Sur (Arriaga & Ortega 1998, Ortega & Arriaga 1991). However, the particular situation of Yaxchilán, on the border of Mexico and Guatemala, should enhance the development of inventory and conservation efforts at a multi-national scale, improving the knowledge and conservation of natural regions across borders.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Jorge Meave del Castillo and Armando Luis-Martínez coordinated the group activities during the project. We also thank Livia León, Armando Luis, Samuel López, Sergio Larios, Luis Antonio Sánchez, and Ubaldo Melo for invaluable assistance in the field. We thank Isolda Luna, Fanny Rebón, Raymond McNeil, Guy Kirwan, and two anonymous reviewers, for comments on the manuscript. We also thank the late Henri Ouellet and Michel Gosselin (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa;CMN); Christian Erard, Jouanin, Christian and Francis Roux (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris); John Hafner (Moore Laboratory of Zoology, MLZ); Mercedes Foster (United States National Museum, USNM); Α. Townsend Peterson, John Bates, and David Willard (Field Museum of Natural History, FMNH), for access to specimens in their care. Claudia Abad, Alejandro Gordillo, Hesiquio Benítez, Elsa Figueroa, and Alad Flores helped in obtaining crucial specimen information in Paris and Ottawa. Financial support was obtained from the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO grant No. M099), CONACyT, DGAPA- UNAM, and National Science Foundation. Special thanks to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), that kindly supplied enormous logistic support and access to their Research Station. The Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE) provided the collecting permits.

#### REFERENCES

- American Ornithologists'Union. 1998. Check list of North American birds. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. American Ornithologists'Union, Washington, D.C.
- Arizmendi, M. C., & L. Márquez. 2000. Areas de importancia para la conservación de las aves en México. Consejo Internacional para la preservación de las aves, Sección México. México, D.F.
- Arriaga, L., & A. Ortega. 1988. La Sierra de la Laguna de Baja California Sur. Publ. 1, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de Baja Califor-

nia Sur, México, D.F.

- BirdLife International. 2000. Threatened birds of the world. Lynx Edition & BirdLife International, Barcelona, Spain & Cambridge, UK.
- Breedlove, E. D. 1970. The phytogeography and vegetation of Chiapas (Mexico). Pp. 149–165 *in* Graham, A. (ed.). Vegetation and vegetational history of northern Latin America. Elsevier, New York, N.Y.
- Collar, N. J., L. P. Gonzaga, N. Krabbe, N. Madroño, L. G. A. Naranjo, T. A. Parker III, & D. C. Wege. 1992. Threatened birds of the Americas. Part 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book, ICBP, Cambridge, UK.
- Comisión Nacional para el Uso y Conocimiento de la Biodiversidad. 1997. BIOTICA, Versión 2.0, 1997. Fideicomiso para la Biodiversidad. Comisión Nacional para el Uso y Conocimiento de la Biodiversidad, México, D.F.
- Dinerstein, E., D. M. Olson, D. J. Graham, A. L. Webster, S. A. Primm, M. P. Bookbinder, & G. Ledec. 1995. Una evaluación del estado de conservación de las ecorregiones terrestres de América Latina y el Caribe. Worl Wildlife Fund, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- DOF (Diario oficial de la Federación).1994. Norma Oficial Mexicana Nom-Ecol-059-1994, que determina las especies y subespecies de flora y fauna silvestres terrestres y acuáticas en peligro de extinción, amenazadas, raras y las sujetas a protección especial y que establece especificaciones para su protección. DOF del 16 de Mayo de 1994.
- Escalante, P., & A. T. Peterson. 1993. Records of the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) in Oaxaca, Mexico. Euphonia 2: 95–97
- Feltner, T. B. 1976. A Scaled-breasted Hummingbird in the Republic of Mexico. Mex. Birds Newsl. 1(2): 11.
- Flores-Villela, O., & P. Gerez. 1994. Biodiversidad y conservación en México: Vertebrados, vegetación y uso del suelo. Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México-Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México, D.F.
- González-García, F. 1993. Avifauna de la Reserva de la Biosfera Montes Azules, Selva Lacandona, Chiapas, México. Acta Zool. Mex. 55: 1–86.
- González-Soriano, E., R. Dirzo, & R. Vogt. 1997.

Historia natural de Los Tuxtlas. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad-Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. México, D.F.

- Gutiérrez, S. J. L. 1984. Matemáticas para las ciencias naturales. Parte 1. Vínculos matemáticos. Departamento de Matemáticas, Facultad de Ciencias, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México, México, D.F.
- Howell, S. N. G. 1989. Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) nesting in Mexico. Aves Mex. 2(89-2): 8–9.
- Howell, S. N. G., & S. Webb. 1995. A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America. Oxford Univ. Press. Oxford, UK.
- Iñigo-Elías, E. 2000. Guacamaya roja (*Ara macao*). Pp. 215–217, *in* Ceballos, G., & L. Márquez-Valdelamar (eds.). Las aves de México en peligro de extinción. Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, D.F.
- Luna, I., & J. Llorente. 1993. Historia natural del Parque Ecológico Estatal Omiltemi, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad-Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México, México, D.F.
- Morales-Pérez, J. E.1998. A sight record of the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) in Chiapas, Mexico. Ornitol. Neotrop. 9: 225–226.
- Ortega, A., & L. Arriaga. 1991. La reserva de la Biósfera El Vizcaíno en la Península de Baja California. Publ. 4, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de Baja California Sur, México, D.F.
- Pennington, T. D., & J. Sarukhán. 1998. Árboles tropicales de México. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México y Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, D.F.
- SEMARNAP-INE-CONABIO (Secretaría de Marina Recursos Naturales y Pesca-Instituto Nacional de Ecología-Comisión para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad). 1995. Reservas de la biósfera y otras áreas naturales protegidas de México. Secretaría del Medio Ambiente Recursos Naturales y Pesca, Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México, D.F.
- Wege, D. C., & A. Long.1995. Key areas for threat-

ened birds in the Neotropics. Birdlife Conservation Series No. 5, BirdLife International,

Cambridge, UK.

APPENDIX 1. Systematic list of the birds of Yaxchilán. Seasonal status (SS) codes are: WR, winter resident; T, transient; O, occasional; SR, summer resident; PR, permanent resident. Conservation status (CS) codes according to the Mexican Endangered and Threatened Species List (DOF 1994) are: A, threatened; R, rare; PE, endangered; SPE, subject of special protection. Records: O (observed), C (collected and deposited at MZFC), M (other museum specimens). Abundance: R (rare), U (uncommon), C (common), V (very common).

Common names	Species	SS	CS	Records	Abundance
Great Tinamou	Tinamus major	PR		Ο	С
Little Tinamou	Crypturellus soui	PR		Ο	U
Thicket Tinamou	Crypturellus cinnamomeus	PR	R	Ο	R
Slaty-breasted Tinamou	Crypturellus boucardi	PR		OC	U
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	Ο		Ο	R
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	PR		Ο	R
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	WR	R	Ο	U
Great Egret	Ardea alba	WR		Ο	U
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	WR		Ο	С
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	WR		0	U
Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor	WR		0	R
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	PR		Ο	R
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	PR		Ο	R
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	WR		Ο	R
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	PR		Ο	С
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	PR		0	С
King Vulture	Sarcoramphus papa	PR	PE	0	R
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis	PR		0	R
Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors	WR	SPE	0	R
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	WR		0	U
Plumbeous Kite	Ictinia plumbea	WR	R	Ο	R
White Hawk	Leucopternis albicollis	PR	R	OM	U
Common Black Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus	PR	А	Ο	R
Great Black Hawk	Buteogallus urubitinga	PR	А	Ο	R
Solitary Eagle	Harpyhaliaetus solitarius	PR	А	0	U
Roadside Hawk	Buteo magnirostris	PR	SPE	0	U
Harpy Eagle	Harpia harpyja	PR	PE	Ο	R
Black Hawk Eagle	Spizaetus tyrannus	PR	А	0	R
Ornate Hawk Eagle	Spizaetus ornatus	PR	PE	Ο	U
Barred Forest Falcon	Micrastur ruficollis	PR	R	С	R
Collared Forest Falcon	Micrastur semitorquatus	PR	R	Μ	-
Laughing Falcon	Herpetotheres cachinnans	PR		0	U
Bat Falcon	Falco rufigularis	PR	А	OM	С
Orange-breasted Falcon	Falco deiroleucus	PR	А	0	R
Plain Chachalaca	Ortalis vetula	PR		0	С
Crested Guan	Penelope purpurascens	PR	SPE	Ο	U

## APPENDIX 1. Continued.

Common names	Species	SS	CS	Records	Abundance
Great Curassow	Crax rubra	PR	PE	О	R
Spotted Woodquail	Odontophorus guttatus	PR	R	О	U
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca	Т		О	R
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularia	WR		О	U
Laughing Gull	Larus atricilla	WR		О	R
Short-billed Pigeon	Columba nigrirostris	PR	R	OC	V
Ruddy Ground Dove	Columbina talpacoti	PR		OC	С
Blue Ground Dove	Claravis pretiosa	PR	R	О	U
White-tipped Dove	Leptotila verreauxi	PR		OC	С
Gray-fronted Dove	Leptotila rufaxilla	PR	R	О	R
Gray-chested Dove	Leptotila cassini	PR	R	OC	R
Ruddy Quail Dove	Geotrygon montana	PR		OC	U
Olive-throated Parakeet	Aratinga nana	PR		0	С
Scarlet Macaw	Ara macao	PR	ΡE	Ο	С
Brown-hooded Parrot	Pionopsitta haematotis	PR	R	OM	U
White-crowned Parrot	Pionus senilis	PR	А	0	U
White-fronted Parrot	Amazona albifrons	PR		0	R
Mealy Parrot	Amazona farinosa	PR	А	0	С
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	Т		OM	R
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythrophthalmus	Т		Μ	-
Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana	PR		OM	U
Striped Cuckoo	Tapera naevia	PR		0	R
Groove-billed Ani	Crotophaga sulcirostris	PR		0	С
Vermiculated Screech Owl	Otus guatemalae	PR	R	С	R
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	Glaucidium brasilianum	PR	А	Μ	-
Mottled Owl	Ciccaba virgata	PR	А	Ο	U
Short-tailed Nighthawk	Lurocalis semitorquatus <sup>1</sup>	PR		-	-
Common Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis	PR		OC	V
White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris	PR		Ο	R
Long-tailed Hermit	Phaethornis superciliosus	PR		OC	С
Little Hermit	Phaethornis longuemareus	PR	R	OC	U
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	Phaeochroa cuvierii	PR		СМ	R
White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora	PR	R	OC	R
Green-breasted Mango	Anthracothorax prevostii	PR		Μ	-
White-bellied Emerald	Amazilia candida	PR	R	OC	U
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl	PR	R	OCM	U
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Amazilia yucatanensis	PR		OC	U
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	Eupherusa eximia	PR		ŌĊ	R
Purple-crowned Fairy	Heliothryx barroti	PR	R	ŌĊ	U
Long-billed Starthroat	Heliomaster longirostris	PR	R	ŌĊ	R
Black-headed Trogon	Trogon melanocephalus	PR		Õ	U
Violaceous Trogon	Trogon violaceus	PR	R	Õ	Č
Slaty-tailed Trogon	Trogon massena	PR	R	OM	č
Tody Motmot	Hylomanes momotula	PR	R	OC	Ŭ
,					0

Common names	Species	SS	CS	Records	Abundance
Ringed Kingfisher	Ceryle torquata	PR		0	U
Amazon Kingfisher	Chloroceryle amazona	PR		Ο	R
Green Kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana	PR		Ο	R
White-necked Puffbird	Notharchus macrorhynchos	PR		0	R
White-whiskered Puffbird	Malacoptila panamensis	PR	R	OCM	U
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	Galbula ruficauda	PR	R	OCM	С
Collared Aracari	Pteroglossus torquatus	PR	R	CM	С
Keel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos sulfuratus	PR	А	0	V
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Melanerpes pucherani	PR	R	Ο	U
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Melanerpes aurifrons	PR		OM	V
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Veniliornis fumigatus	PR	R	OC	U
Golden-olive Woodpecker	Piculus rubiginosus	PR		Ο	R
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	Celeus castaneus	PR	А	0	U
Lineated Woodpecker	Dryocopus lineatus	PR	R	Ο	U
Pale-billed Woodpecker	Campephilus guatemalensis	PR	R	Ο	С
Rufous-breasted Spinetail	Synallaxis erythrothorax	PR		OCM	R
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	Automolus ochrolaemus	PR	R	OC	U
Plain Xenops	Xenops minutus	PR	А	OCM	U
Scaly-throated Leaftosser	Sclerurus guatemalensis	PR	R	OC	U
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla anabatina	PR	А	OCM	С
Ruddy Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla homochroa	PR	R	OCM	U
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	Sittasomus griseicapillus	PR	R	OC	U
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Glyphorhynchus spirurus	PR	R	OC	U
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae	PR	R	OC	R
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus flavigaster	PR		OCM	V
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes souleyetii	PR		С	R
Great Antshrike	Taraba major	PR	R	OC	U
Barred Antshrike	Thamnophilus doliatus	PR		OM	V
Plain Antvireo	Dysithamnus mentalis	PR	R	OC	U
Dot-winged Antwren	Microrhopias quixensis	PR	R	OM	U
Dusky Antbird	Cercomacra tyrannina	PR	R	OCM	С
Bare-crowned Antbird	Gymnocichla nudiceps	Ο		Ο	R
Black-faced Antthrush	Formicarius analis	PR	R	OC	С
Scaled Antpitta	Grallaria guatimalensis	PR		OC	R
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	Ornithion semiflavum	PR	R	С	R
Greenish Elaenia	Myiopagis viridicata	PR		OCM	U
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	Mionectes oleaginous	PR	R	OCM	U
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	Leptopogon amaurocephalus	PR	R	OCM	U
Slate-headed Tody Flycatcher	Poecilotriccus sylvia	PR	R	OC	R
Common Tody Flycatcher	Todirostrum cinereum	PR	R	OC	R
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	Tolmomyias sulphurescens	PR	R	OC	R
Stub-tailed Spadebill	Platyrinchus cancrominus	PR	R	OCM	V
Royal Flycatcher	Onychorhynchus coronatus	PR		OCM	U
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	Terenotriccus erythrurus	PR	R	С	U
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	Myiobius sulphureipygius	PR	R	OCM	С

# APPENDIX 1. Continued.

\_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX 1. Continued.

Common names	Species	SS	CS	Records	Abundance
Eastern Wood Pewee	Contopus virens	Т		0	R
Tropical Pewee	Contopus cinereus	PR		Μ	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	WR		OCM	U
Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens	Т		С	R
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	Т		CM	R
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	WR		CM	R
Bright-rumped Attila	Attila spadiceus	PR	R	OC	R
Rufous Mourner	Rhytipterna holerythra	PR	R	0	R
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer	PR		OC	U
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	WR		OC	R
Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus	PR		OC	С
Boat-billed Flycatcher	Megarynchus pitangua	PR		Ο	R
Social Flycatcher	Myiozetetes similis	PR		OM	U
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Myiodynastes luteiventris	SR		Ο	U
Piratic Flycatcher	Legatus leucophaius	SR		Ο	R
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	PR		Ο	R
Thrush-like Schiffornis	Schiffornis turdinus	PR		OCM	U
Cinnamon Becard	Pachyramphus cinnamomeus	PR	R	0	U
Rose-throated Becard	Pachyramphus aglaiae	PR		OM	R
Masked Tityra	Tityra semifasciata	PR		О	С
Black-crowned Tityra	Tityra inquisitor	PR		0	U
Rufous Piha	Lipaugus unirifus	PR	R	Μ	-
Lovely Cotinga	Cotinga amabilis	PR	А	О	U
White-collared Manakin	Manacus candei	PR	R	OCM	U
Red-capped Manakin	Pipra mentalis	PR		OCM	U
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	О		О	U
White-eyed Vireo	Vireo griseus	WR		OM	R
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius	WR		О	R
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	WR		CM	R
Yellow-green Vireo	Vireo flavoviridis	WR		OC	U
Lesser Greenlet	Hylophilus decurtatus	PR	R	Μ	-
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	Hylophilus ochraceiceps	PR	R	OCM	U
Green Jay	Cyanocorax yncas	PR		О	С
Brown Jay	Cyanocorax morio	PR		OM	V
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	PR		С	С
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	WR		О	R
Mangrove Swallow	Tachycineta albilinea	PR		О	С
Spot-breasted Wren	Thryothorus maculipectus	PR		OCM	V
White-browed Wren	Thryothorus albinucha	PR		OC	R
White-breasted Wood Wren	Henicorhina leucosticta	PR	R	OCM	С
Long-billed Gnatwren	Ramphocaenus melanurus	PR		OCM	U
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	WR		С	R
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	WR		OCM	V
Clay-colored Robin	Turdus grayi	PR		OC	С
White-throated Robin	Turdus assimilis	PR		CM	R

	n '	A 1 1
Common names Species SS CS	Records	Abundance
Gray Catbird Dumetella carolinensis WR	OCM	С
Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus WR	OC	R
Tropical Parula Parula pitiayumi PR?	0	R
Yellow Warbler Dendroica petechia WR	OC	U
Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica WR	0	R
Magnolia Warbler Dendroica magnolia WR R	OCM	U
Black-throated Green Warbler Dendroica virens WR R	Μ	-
Bay-breasted Warbler Dendroica castanea WR	О	R
Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia WR	OCM	С
American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla WR	OCM	V
Worm-eating WarblerHelmitheros vermivorusWRR	OC	U
Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus WR R	OCM	С
Northern Waterthrush Seiurus noveboracensis WR R	OCM	U
Kentucky Warbler Oporornis formosus WR	OCM	С
MacGillivray's Warbler Oporornis tolmiei WR	Μ	-
Common Yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas WR	OM	R
Hooded Warbler Wilsonia citrina WR A	OCM	U
Wilson's Warbler Wilsonia pusilla WR	OCM	С
Golden-crowned Warbler Basileuterus culicivorus PR R	OCM	U
Yellow-breasted Chat Icteria virens WR	OCM	U
Gray-throated Chat Granatellus sallaei PR	0	R
Bananaquit Coereba flaveola PR	OCM	U
Gray-headed Tanager Eucometis penicillata PR R	OCM	U
Black-throated Shrike Tanager Lanio aurantius PR R	OM	-
Red-crowned Ant Tanager Habia rubica PR	OCM	R
Red-throated Ant Tanager Habia fuscicauda PR	OCM	V
Summer Tanager Piranga rubra WR	OCM	U
Crimson-collared Tanager Ramphocelus sanguinolentus PR	OCM	С
Passerini's Tanager Ramphocelus passerinii PR	OCM	С
Blue-gray Tanager Thraupis episcopus PR	О	U
Yellow-winged Tanager Thraupis abbas PR	OC	U
Scrub Euphonia Euphonia affinis PR	0	R
Yellow-throated Euphonia Euphonia hirundinacea PR	OC	U
Olive-backed Euphonia Emphonia gouldi PR R	OM	U
Golden-hooded Tanager Tangara larvata PR R	OM	U
Green Honeycreeper Chlorophanes spiza PR R	OCM	R
Red-legged Honeycreeper Cyanerpes cyaneus PR	0	R
Variable Seedeater Sporophila americana PR	OCM	С
White-collared Seedeater Sporophila torqueola PR	OM	С
Blue Seedeater Amaurospiza concolor PR? R	OC	R
Orange-billed Sparrow Arremon aurantiirostris PR R	OC	С
Green-backed Sparrow Arremonops chloronotus PR	OCM	С
Lincoln's Sparrow Melospiza lincolnii WR	Μ	-
Grayish Saltator Saltator coerulescens PR	О	U
Buff-throated Saltator Saltator maximus PR	OC	U

## APPENDIX 1. Continued.

APPENDIX 1. Continued.

Common names	Species	SS	CS	Records	Abundance
Black-headed Saltator	Saltator atriceps	PR		OC	С
Black-faced Grosbeak	Caryothraustes poliogaster	PR		OC	U
Yellow Grosbeak	Pheucticus chrysopeplus	PR		0	R
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	WR		OM	R
Blue-black Grosbeak	Cyanocompsa cyanoides	PR	R	OCM	U
Blue Bunting	Cyanocompsa parellina	PR		OC	R
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	WR		OCM	U
Painted Bunting	Passerina ciris	WR		0	R
Melodious Blackbird	Dives dives	PR		0	V
Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus	PR		0	R
Black-cowled Oriole	Icterus dominicensis	PR		OM	R
Orchard Oriole	Icterus spurius	WR		0	R
Spot-breasted Oriole	Icterus pectoralis	PR		Μ	-
Hooded Oriole	Icterus cucullatus	PR	А	0	R
Yellow-tailed Oriole	Icterus mesomelas	PR		0	U
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	WR		OM	U
Altamira Oriole	Icterus gularis	PR		Μ	-
Yellow-billed Cacique	Amblycercus holosericeus	PR		OCM	С
Chestnut-headed Oropendola	Psarocolius wagleri	PR	А	Ο	U
Montezuma Oropendola	Psarocolius montezuma	PR	R	OM	С

<sup>1</sup>Only recorded by Howell (1989).