1962

The Birds of the Mexican State of Tabasco.

Delwyn Green Berrett

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Louisiana State University, Ph.D., 1962
Zoology

University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan
THE BIRDS OF THE MEXICAN STATE OF TABASCO

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

in

The Department of Zoology, Physiology, and Entomology

by

Delwyn Green Berrett
B.S., Brigham Young University, 1957
M.S., Brigham Young University, 1958
August 1962
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Dr. Ned K. Johnson verified the identifications of the Empidonax specimens, Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon examined the Myiarchus specimens, and Dr. James K. Baker racially identified the specimen of Petrochelidon pyrrhonota.

Dr. Robert J. Newman critically examined the manuscript and offered many helpful suggestions. Professors Harry J. Bennett, H. Bruce Boudreaux,

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George C. Kent, Jr., J. Harvey Roberts, and Henry J. Werner also read the manuscript and made valuable comments. Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., directed the study and offered counsel and advice throughout the investigation and the preparation of the report.
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ABSTRACT

The objective of this work was to determine the composition of the avifauna of the Mexican State of Tabasco as well as the geographic and ecologic distribution, the seasonal status, and the identification of each subspecies that occurs within the State.

Since the publication of the Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico, 166 species have been added to the list of Tabascan birds mainly as a result of four expeditions sponsored by the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology. Two species never before taken in Mexico were collected: Terenotriccus erythrus and Heliolithyx barroti.

A summary of past ornithological research is included as well as a résumé and itinerary of the four LSUMZ expeditions. A brief description of the geography and climate of Tabasco is given. The State has been divided into seven major habitats: mangrove; tropical rain forest; dry tropical evergreen forest; fresh-water swamp forest; marshland; savanna; and littoral. Each of these habitats as well as the more important collecting areas located in them are described. The climate of Tabasco is characterized by a rather uniform and high year round temperature, high humidity, high annual rainfall, and little to no wind. The year is divided into two parts, the wet and the dry seasons. Teapa with 181 inches and Tenosique with 83 inches have the highest annual rainfall in the State. Both localities are situated at the base of the Chiapas mountains and are in the rain forest belt.

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Each of the 457 species that has been recorded from the State is discussed. Under each account are listed all the specimens of that species that were collected by the four expeditions to Tabasco. For each specimen the locality, date, and collector are given; in most cases the sex and weight are also stated. All published records that mention specific localities are cited in the species accounts.

In an analysis of the 457 species that make up the Tabascan avifauna, fourteen are found to be erroneously recorded or at least of very doubtful occurrence, and thirty-three are included on the basis of sight records only. Of the 443 definitely recorded species, 286 are permanent or summer residents, 125 are winter visitants or transients, and thirty-two are stragglers. Of the 286 permanent and summer residents (breeding birds), 155 are most commonly found in the rain forest belt, sixty-three in the marshland habitat and its fringes, thirty-six in the savanna and its brushy borders, seven in the fresh-water swamp forest, five in the littoral, five in the dry tropical evergreen forest, and three in the mangroves. Nine species are so widespread in their distribution that it is not possible to categorize them according to any specific habitat. Thirty-nine per cent of the winter visitants and transients are water birds, and the majority of these are members of the order Charadriiformes.
INTRODUCTION

Tabasco is one of the twenty-nine states that, along with the Federal District and two territories, comprise the Republic of Mexico. This State is located in the extreme southeastern section of the Country, on the northern coast of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Tabasco lies between 17°15' and 18°39' north latitude and between 90°59' and 94°08' west longitude. Its greatest extent from west to east along any one parallel of latitude is 203 miles, and its greatest extent from north to south along any one meridian of longitude is 81 miles. Tabasco has an area of 9,782 square miles. It is bounded on the west by Veracruz, on the south by Chiapas, on the southeast by the Republic of Guatemala, on the northeast by Campeche, and on the north by the Gulf of Mexico. Tabasco is very irregular in form and does not represent a compact geographical unit (Figure 1). It may be said to be composed of three separate sections narrowly united with one another. The most nearly disjunct of these three is the easternmost extension of the State, comprising the municipios of Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique (a municipio is equivalent to a county in the United States; Tabasco is composed of seventeen municipios). At the narrowest point along the neck that connects this section with the remainder of the State, only 7 miles separate the States of Campeche and Chiapas. The entire State is located in the tropical Gulf lowlands, and despite its lack of geographical unity, it shows comparatively little variation in its habitat.
Figure 1.
Map of Tabasco showing all localities and municipios mentioned in text. The inset shows the position of Tabasco in the Republic of Mexico.

List of localities
The numbers in parentheses in the following list identify the positions of the localities on the map.

Allende (19) Laguna Macocán (7)
Arenal (40) Laguna Matillas (29)
Atasta (21) La Palma (59)
Balancán (47) La Reforma (51)
Boca del Cerro (56) La Ribera (57)
Bulují (39) La Venta (1)
Campo Magallanes (4) Macuspana (36)
Cantemó (42) Miramar (17)
Cárdenas (11) Macajuca (16)
Chablé (45) Ocuípan (12)
Chontalpa (14) Paraiso (6)
Chotal (62) Pato (48)
Ciudad Pemex (34) Provincia (53)
Comalcalco (3) Río Chico (44)
Corozal (32) Río San Pedro y San Pablo (41)
Cunduacán (10) Sabanas Nuevas (38)
El Limón in Balancán municipio (52) San Carlos (35)
El Limón in Macuspana municipio (33) Sanchez Magallanes (2)
El Mulato (31) San Isidro (58)
El Zopilote (40) San Ramón (30)
Emiliano Zapata (46) Santa Rosa (60)
Encrucijada (33) Santo Tomás (61)
Francisco Rueda (5) Tacotalpa (26)
Frontera (18) Tapijulapa (27)
Huastecas (23) Teapa (25)
Huimanguillo (13) Tenosique (55)
Jalapa (24) Tierra Colorada (20)
Jalpa de Méndez (15) Tortuguerro (37)
Jonuta (43) Triunfo (50)
La Concepción (54) Tulipán (9)
Laguna del Carmen (3) Villahermosa (22)

List of municipios
The letters in parentheses identify the positions of the municipios on the map.

Balancán (P) Jalpa de Méndez (E)
Cárdenas (B) Jonuta (N)
Centla (H) Macuspana (M)
Centro (I) Macajuca (F)
Comalcalco (D) Paraiso (C)
Cunduacán (G) Tacotalpa (L)
Emiliano Zapata (O) Teapa (K)
Huimanguillo (A) Tenosique (Q)
Jalapa (J)
According to the 1950 census, 362,716 people reside within the State (Geografía de Tabasco, 1958:6). The city of Villahermosa, the capital, is located in the center of the State and has a population of 33,578. The population density within the State is 39.7 persons per square mile. The State is overpopulated, and very little virgin country remains. The major portion of the population is of Indian descent, and native villages and huts are spread throughout the area of Tabasco.

Great strides have been made in the last few years by the improvement of transportation conditions within the State. Until the late 1950's, one could not enter Tabasco by car. In 1959 many ferries and the unpaved condition of most roads hampered the traveler. By 1961 pavement reached from the Río Tonalá (Veracruz line) to Villahermosa and thence to Frontera and the Río San Pedro y San Pablo (Campeche line). Today pavement also extends from Villahermosa to Teapa and from Cárdenas to Chontalpa. Nearly all the ferries have been replaced by bridges. It is still impossible, however, to travel by road to the eastern section and the towns of Jonuta, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique; although such a connection is being planned. That area can be reached, however, by railroad from Chontalpa and Teapa, or by boat from Villahermosa and Frontera via the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta. Airplane service is also quite frequent between Villahermosa and Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique.

Compared to many of the Mexican States, Tabasco has been slighted ornithologically. Anything collectors could obtain in Tabasco could also be found in southern Veracruz with less effort. If the collector were to exert the effort necessary to enter Tabasco, he might as well go the entire distance and travel on to the Yucatán Peninsula, an area with many unique and peculiar forms. Until recently, difficulties of transportation within the
State have limited the work of bird collectors. That the ornithology of Tabasco has not been previously investigated thoroughly can be ascertained by a glance at Table I, which cites 166 species that have been added to the Tabascan avifaunal list since the publication of the Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico, parts I (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, 1950) and II (Miller et al., 1957). The reason the majority of these species were previously unreported was not their rarity but rather the lack of ornithological work in the area. Indeed, many of the added forms are among the more common species found within the State. Shore birds and water birds, in particular, had been ignored.

To date, the most important work covering the avifauna of Tabasco is that of Brodkorb (1943). This publication is principally a report on a collection of birds made by Eisi Matuda, a botanist, in the region of the Río Usumacinta, but Brodkorb also summarizes the information then known on the avifauna of the entire region and discusses the geography and climate of the area. This work has been of utmost help to me in my research and was instrumental in stimulating my interest in the area.

I first entered Tabasco in February 1959 and have, between that time and December 1961, spent approximately eight months collecting birds in various sections of the State. During that period I have traversed almost every road within the State and have visited each of the seventeen municipios of which Tabasco is composed (Figure 2). I have traveled to my destinations by foot, horseback, boat, automobile, railroad, and airplane. In the course of our survey of the State, my companions and I have collected 1133 specimens representing 368 species. Concentration during the later expeditions to the area was on quality rather than quantity. Of the 368 species taken, 122 had not previously been collected in the State. Twenty-
three species were observed for the first time within Tabasco, but were not collected. Table I gives a list of 166 species that are now known to occur in Tabasco whose ranges, as stated within the Mexican Check-list, do not include the State. In addition to my own records, this table lists the specimen and sight records of other workers who have been in the area.

My own specimens and field experience form the nucleus of this study, but I have been fortunate in being able to draw heavily upon the field notes and specimens of other ornithologists who have worked within the State in recent years. In addition, I have assembled all the published data on the Tabascan avifauna in an attempt to make this report as complete as possible. Unfortunately, however, I have not been able to examine personally all the extant Tabascan material.
TABLE I

SPECIES ADDED TO THE TABASCAN AVIFAUNAL LIST SINCE THE PUBLICATION
OF THE MEXICAN CHECK-LIST

A species whose name is preceded by a single asterisk is not yet represented by a specimen. In a few instances, a species was deliberately omitted by the Mexican Check-list as occurring in Tabasco despite published records, and there were also a few obvious oversights. Double asterisks indicate this condition. Triple asterisks precede the names of the two species that were recorded for the first time in the Republic of Mexico.

1. **Podiceps dominicus**
2. **Podilymbus podiceps**
3. **Fregata magnificens**
4. **Ardea herodias**
5. **Bubulcus ibis**
6. **Nyctanassa violacea**
7. **Heteroenus mexicanus**
8. **Botaurus pinnatus**
9. **Jabiru mycteria**
10. **Plegadis chihi**
11. **Anser albifrons**
12. **Cairina moschata**
13. **Mareca americana**
14. **Oxyura dominica**
15. **Cathartes burrovianus**
16. **Chondrohierax uncinatus**
17. **Harpagus bidentatus**
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<td>Ictinia mississippiensis</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Rostrhamus sociabilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.*</td>
<td>Accipiter cooperii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.*</td>
<td>Accipiter striatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Buteo albigularis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.*</td>
<td>Buteo swainsoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.*</td>
<td>Buteo platypterus</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Buteo brachyurus</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Hypomorphus urubitinga</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Spiza rustica melancoleucus</td>
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<td>28.*</td>
<td>Spizaetus ornatus</td>
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<td>29.*</td>
<td>Spizaetus tyrannus</td>
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<td>30.*</td>
<td>Circus cyaneus</td>
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<td>31.*</td>
<td>Geranospiza nigra</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>Micrastur semiotorquatus</td>
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<td>Polyborus cheriway</td>
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<td>34.*</td>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
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<td>Falco femoralis</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>Falco sparverius</td>
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<td>37.*</td>
<td>Aramides arillaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.*</td>
<td>Laterallus ruber</td>
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<td>39.*</td>
<td>Callimula chloropus</td>
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<td>40.*</td>
<td>Fulica americana</td>
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<td>Hirundo rustica</td>
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<td>Iridoprocne bicolor</td>
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<td>Aimophila petenica</td>
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<td>166</td>
<td>Melospiza lincolnii</td>
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SUMMARY OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN TABASCO

The first man to collect birds within the confines of the State of Tabasco was probably Auguste Ghiesbreght between the years 1838 and 1841. Viscount Bernard Du Bus began publishing in 1846 in his *Esquisses Ornithologiques* descriptions of new species from the birds collected by Ghiesbreght. Two species, *Aphelocoma unicolor* and *Peucedramus taeniatus*, were originally described by Du Bus (1847: 103; 104) from "le Mexique," but he later (1848) restricted them to Tabasco. At this early date, the boundaries of the State were probably uncertain, and these specimens were with little doubt actually obtained from the mountains of northern Chiapas (van Rossem, 1942: 212). Despite these errors Ghiesbreght is known to have definitely obtained many of his specimens from Tabasco; the type of *Tangara larvata* was collected by him from the State.

In 1887 José N. Rovirosa published a list of seventy-six species that he observed while residing at the Hacienda San Diego in the municipio of Macuspana near the Chiapas border. Rovirosa made numerous errors in identification; and, as stated by Brodkorb (1943: 8), it "is apparent that scarcely any reliance can be placed on his records which have not been confirmed by other workers."

Probably the best known section of Tabasco ornithologically is the region around Teapa. One reason is the extensive collection of birds made by Mrs. Herbert H. Smith from January through March 1888. Her specimens were collected for Salvin and Godman, and the majority were deposited in
the British Museum. Her records were thence published in the later volumes of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* and the *Catalogue of the Birds of the British Museum*.

The most extensive ornithological investigation of Tabasco prior to the present research was made during the early part of the year 1900 by Edward W. Nelson and Edward A. Goldman of the former Bureau of Biological Survey. A complete itinerary of the travels of these two men throughout Mexico was published by Goldman (1951) in his *Biological Investigations in Mexico*. The major portion of their collecting within the State was done in the vicinities of Frontera, Teapa, and Emiliano Zapata (then known as Montecristo). Goldman arrived at Frontera on 4 March and remained at that town until 13 March, when he began his journey up the Ríos Grijalva and Teapa to Villahermosa (then known as San Juan Bautista) and Teapa. He collected at Teapa from 18 March to 21 April and then began the return trip to Frontera. Nelson joined Goldman in Frontera on 24 April, and they both remained there until 30 April. The two men then journeyed up the Río Usumacinta to Emiliano Zapata and collected there until 10 May. From 10 to 21 May they were in Palenque, Chiapas, but they returned to and remained in Emiliano Zapata until 25 May. From 26 to 28 May, Nelson and Goldman traveled to Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche. Much of our knowledge concerning this section of Mexico is based upon the pioneer investigations of these two biologists. Many of their records for the State were published by Ridgway in his *Birds of North and Middle America*. Their collection today is in the United States National Museum.

From May through July 1939, Eizi Matuda made a botanical exploration of the region around the Río Usumacinta. His three assistants, Gregorio Gómez, Wenceslao Niño, and Esteban Cruz, collected and prepared bird skins
in their spare time. A complete report of this collection, consisting of over 1000 specimens, has been made by Brodkorb (1943). Katuda and his men arrived in Balancán on 9 May and remained there until 20 May. They then traveled along the Río San Pedro from La Reforma to La Palma, where they arrived on 30 May. They then went overland to Tenosique, arriving on 11 June. From that date until 4 July, they collected in the vicinities of Boca del Cerro and Santo Tomás. After traveling to Palenque, Chiapas, they reentered Tabasco at Emiliano Zapata on 19 July. The next day Katuda and his men left the State bound for Palizada, Campeche. Brodkorb described two new races, *Cissilopha yucatana rivularis* and *Agelaius phoeniceus matudae*, from the collection made by these men, and several species were reported for the first time from Mexico. The major portion of this collection is housed today at the University of Michigan.

In 1943 Walter A. Weber spent the months of March and April in the vicinity of La Venta with an expedition studying that archeological site. During that period, he collected a number of avian specimens. No scientific report on this collection, now housed at the United States National Museum, has ever been published; but Weber (1945) wrote a popular article for the National Geographic Society on the wildlife of the region. With this article were presented paintings illustrating a number of Tabascan birds.

Chester C. Lamb, who collected extensively throughout Mexico and Central America, spent one day at Tenosique. On 27 November 1945, he collected five birds. These specimens are located in the Robert T. Moore collection at Occidental College.

With the increase in ease of transportation within the State, more people have entered the area in recent years. One of the larger collections was made by Robert W. Dickerman, who obtained over 100 specimens of birds from
the State during the months of April and May 1955. His efforts were concentrated near Cárdenas, Cantemó, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Macuspana. No report on this collection, located at the University of Kansas, has ever appeared as such; but Dickerman (1961: 333) has recently described a new race of Botaurus pinnatus from specimens he obtained during that expedition, and Thompson (1962) has recently published Dickerman's better records.

In July 1957 Robert K. Selander visited the Teapa region in conjunction with his work on the genus Psilorhinus (Selander, 1959). His collection is housed at the University of California at Berkeley.

The first of four expeditions to Tabasco sponsored by the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) entered the State on 25 February 1959. Douglas M. Lay, a mammalogist, and I made our base of activities in the foothills 1 mile east of Teapa. The major portion of our time from February to May of that year was spent in the vicinity of that town. Frequent trips were taken, however, north to Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, and west as far as the Tabasco line, along the road to Pichucalco, Chiapas. On 6 through 8 April, Lay and I traveled by car to the vicinity of Frontera and Paraiso in the coastal region. Later, we made several collecting excursions to Miramar, a small village located on the Gulf of Mexico west of Frontera. Between 8 March and 22 April 1959, J. Keith McDonald, an engineer with a keen interest in ornithology and bird photography, visited the Teapa area. He took daily notes of the birds that he saw and is responsible for a number of records unreported elsewhere. McDonald accompanied us on several of our excursions, including one of the trips to Miramar.

Lay and I left Tabasco on 25 May 1959.

On 6 September 1959, Ernest P. Biards crossed the State from the Río Tonalá to the Río San Pedro y San Pablo. The following day he retraced
the journey of the previous day. His notes on the large flocks of North American migrants that he observed are of particular interest.

On 17 through 19 February 1960, Walter P. Nickell and Karl D. Bailey net banded twenty species of birds at Teapa. Three of these species, Scardafella inca, Glaucidium minutissimum, and Lampornis clemenciae, had not previously been reported for the State, although the first two species have since been taken.

In February 1960 Douglas M. Lay and his companion, John E. Woods, camped at the same locality east of Teapa where Lay and I had been the previous year. Although Lay's efforts were concentrated on the study of mammals, he did not hesitate to collect and prepare any birds that he thought might be of interest. Many of the more interesting specimens that he obtained were taken from mammal traps or mist nets. From late February until 4 April, Lay and Woods maintained their base at Teapa and traveled in the nearby vicinity. Between 21 and 30 March 1960, John P. Gee visited the two mammalogists and made detailed notes on the birds that he saw in the area.

On 5 April Lay and Woods departed from Villahermosa for Balancán via the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta in a small boat with an outboard motor. They arrived at their destination on 7 April. In addition to collecting around Balancán, they spent part of their time in the back country north of that town and along the Río San Pedro. On 2 May they left Balancán and returned to Teapa. The remainder of this expedition, until the last of May, was spent in the vicinities of Teapa and Miramar.

I was able to again return to Tabasco in the spring of 1961. My companion on this expedition was Edward T. Armstrong. Laurence C. Binford, also of the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, and his companion, Larry L. Wolf, were simultaneously working on a distributional survey of
birds in Oaxaca. During the first half of our allotted time, Armstrong and I had use of the Museum of Zoology's panel truck. At the outset, we camped once again at Teapa for two weeks; then we moved to the coast and collected between Miramar and Río San Pedro y San Pablo. Between 16 March and 1 April, we camped and collected in the vicinities of Chontalpa and La Venta. The latter half of this expedition was spent in the eastern section, particularly in the region around Balancán. Following a four-day trip by river boat, Armstrong and I arrived in Balancán on 24 April. We collected in the vicinity of that town and then packed by horseback into the sparsely inhabited country 11 miles north of Balancán. Armstrong and I returned to Teapa by railroad from Triunfo, a town northeast of Balancán. We left Tabasco on 27 May 1961.

Between 12 and 15 April 1961, L. R. Wolfe, Travis C. Meitzen, and Joe Johnson traveled by car in the neighborhood of Villahermosa. Their primary interest was nesting Snail Kites (Rostrhamus sociabilis), but they took careful notes on a number of falconiform birds. I was very fortunate to have access to Wolfe's notes concerning the more interesting birds that they observed.

The last of the expeditions to Tabasco was made during the fall and winter of 1961. Laurence C. Binford, F. Mark Berrett (my brother), and I divided our time between the States of Oaxaca and Tabasco. We arrived on 23 October and traveled by railroad from Teapa to Tenosique, where we made plans to pack into the extensive rain forest southeast of that town. From 1 to 16 November, we collected in the rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. We returned to Teapa by railroad on 17 November. After spending some time in Oaxaca, we again entered Tabasco on 3 December. During that month we collected in the savanna between Huimanguillo and Francisco
Rueda, in the marshes north of Cárdenas, and in the mangrove lagoons at Sanchez Magallanes. We left Tabasco on 23 December 1961. Table II gives a complete itinerary of the four trips sponsored by the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology and Figure 2 illustrates on a map of the State the travels of these four expeditions.
# TABLE II

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY OF THE FOUR LSUMZ TABASCAN EXPEDITIONS

The names of collectors and the means of transportation apply until the next change.

1959

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Río Tonalá - Villahermosa (Lay, D. Berrett), automobile.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Villahermosa - Teapa.</td>
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<td>27-28</td>
<td>Teapa, afoot.</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Teapa.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Teapa - Villahermosa - Teapa, automobile.</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td>Teapa, afoot.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Teapa - 20 mi. N Teapa - Teapa, automobile.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Teapa, afoot.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Teapa - Villahermosa - Teapa, automobile.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>Teapa, afoot.</td>
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<td>Teapa - Villahermosa - Teapa, automobile.</td>
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<td>22-29</td>
<td>Teapa (Lay, McDonald, D. Berrett), afoot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Teapa - Villahermosa - Teapa (Lay, D. Berrett), automobile.</td>
</tr>
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<td>April</td>
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TABLE II—Continued

1959

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1960

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<td>25 Villahermosa - 7 mi. S Chontalpa - Huimanguillo.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26 Huimanguillo - Teapa.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27 Teapa, afoot.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28-29 Teapa - Tenosique, railroad.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30-31 Tenosique, afoot.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
<td>1 Tenosique - 8 mi. SE Tenosique, horseback.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2-8 8 mi. SE Tenosique, afoot.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 8 mi. SE Tenosique - Santa Rosa - 8 mi. SE Tenosique, horseback.</td>
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<td>10 8 mi. SE Tenosique, afoot.</td>
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<td>11 8 mi. SE Tenosique - Chotal - 8 mi. SE Tenosique, horseback.</td>
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<td>12-15 8 mi. SE Tenosique, afoot.</td>
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<td>16 8 mi. SE Tenosique - Tenosique.</td>
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<td>17 Tenosique - Teapa, railroad.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18 Teapa - Villahermosa, automobile.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19 Villahermosa - Río Tonalá.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
<td>3 Río Tonalá - Villahermosa.</td>
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<td>4 Villahermosa - Cunduacán - Jalpa de Méndez - Macajucu - Comalcalco - Huimanguillo.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Huimanguillo - 8 mi. S Chontalpa - Huimanguillo.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Huimanguillo - 8 mi. S Huimanguillo - Huimanguillo.</td>
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TABLE II—Continued

1961
December

7 Huimanguillo - 7 mi. S Chontalpa - Huimanguillo.
8 Huimanguillo - Francisco Ruena - Huimanguillo.
9 Huimanguillo - 4 mi. SW Ocúapan - Huimanguillo.
10 Huimanguillo - Francisco Ruena - Huimanguillo.
11 Huimanguillo - 8 mi. SW Ocúapan - 7 mi. S Chontalpa - Huimanguillo.
12 Huimanguillo - Sanchez Magallanes - Huimanguillo.
13 Huimanguillo, afoot.
14 Huimanguillo - Sanchez Magallanes, automobile.
15-18 Sanchez Magallanes, afoot; boat.
19 Sanchez Magallanes - Huimanguillo, automobile.
20-22 Huimanguillo, afoot.
23 Huimanguillo - Río San Pedro y San Pablo, automobile.
Figure 2.

Map of Tabasco illustrating the routes of travel taken by the four LSUMZ expeditions. The inset map illustrates the position of the State of Tabasco in the Republic of Mexico.
GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

General Geography

The location of the State of Tabasco (Figure 1) has been given on page 1. The State is situated entirely within the tropical Gulf lowlands. Only into the extreme southern tips of the municipios of Huimanguillo, Teapa, Tacotalpa, and Tenosique do the mountains of Chiapas extend their foothills. These slightly elevated regions are heavily covered with humid, dense rain forest. The remainder of the State is flat and devoid of any semblance of a hill. From a glance at a map of Tabasco, the State is seen to be honeycombed with rivers. The larger and more important of these are the Ríos Tonalá, Grijalva, Usumacinta, and San Pedro y San Pablo. The Río Usumacinta is the largest river, at certain points exceeding a mile in width, and is the primary means of communication between the eastern section and the rest of the State. The Tabascan rivers are comparatively short, but perform the difficult task of draining the humid Gulf slope of the mountains of Chiapas, and hence they carry enormous loads of water. Much of the coastal lowland is covered with swamps and open marshland, which, during the rainy season, may be converted into a series of large lakes. There are a number of true fresh-water lakes within the confines of the State; but, for the most part, they are shallow and heavily overgrown with marshy vegetation. Salt-water and brackish lagoons, lined with mangroves, are present along the coast in the western section of the State.
The Gulf beach is comparatively dry and is covered with a scrubby growth except where man has replaced this vegetation with cocoanut groves. Dry savanna exists in two widely separated areas, a section of southwestern Huimanguillo and sections of northern Emiliano Zapata and Balancán municipios. Also in northern Balancán municipio can be found a small segment of dry tropical evergreen forest. The locations of the various habitats are illustrated in Figure 3. These habitats will be further discussed separately in the following section.

**Major Tabascan Habitats**

The State of Tabasco is divisible into seven distinguishable habitats as follows: (1) mangrove; (2) tropical rain forest; (3) dry tropical evergreen forest; (4) fresh-water swamp forest; (5) marshland; (6) savanna; and (7) littoral (Figure 3). This division was made by Douglas M. Lay, who worked on the mammals of the State, and myself and is based principally upon our field experience within the area. We have attempted to make it as accurate as possible, but it must be realized that these different habitats merge into one another and that no sharp lines of demarcation exist. The following descriptions of each of these habitats will serve to clarify their use in the species accounts.

**Mangrove.** — In Tabasco, mangrove swamps line the mouths of the larger rivers and the shores of the large coastal lagoons, but never, to my knowledge, do they occur along the Gulf coast itself. The mangrove that lines the coastal lagoons is short and scrubby, seldom attaining a height greater than 15 to 20 feet. The floor of this swamp is under water during high tide and boggy at low tide, but with proper equipment one can penetrate...
Figure 3.

Map of Tabasco illustrating the locations of the seven major Tabascan habitats as described in the text. The inset map illustrates the position of the State of Tabasco in the Republic of Mexico.
these areas without difficulty. The mangrove lining the mouths of the larger rivers such as the Río San Pedro y San Pablo, on the other hand, is composed of very tall trees that attain a height of 40 feet or better. There are not many low branches on these trees. Thus the forest, from the outside, has the appearance of being quite open. However, the forest floor is usually covered with several feet of water. This factor, in addition to the tangle of roots, both below and above the surface of the water, makes penetration almost impossible. In deducing the geographical range of this habitat, it has been necessary on occasion to make calculated assumptions, for neither Lay nor I have traced the coasts of all the lagoons and river mouths to determine the precise distribution of the mangroves. The descriptions presented above are based upon the types of mangrove observed at Sanchez Magallanes and Río San Pedro y San Pablo.

Tropical rain forest. — The tropical rain forest has suffered considerably from the depredations of man and now exists in quantity only in the southern tips of the municipios of Huimanguillo, Teapa, Tacotalpa, Mucuspana, Emiliano Zapata, and Tenosique. Even today, however, small remnants of this forest extend northward along the humid river bottoms into the other habitats. Within Tabasco the best tropical rain forest is located at the base of the Gulf slope of the Chiapas mountains and is a result in part of the extremely high annual rainfall. Teapa, with 183 inches, has the highest annual rainfall of any recording station in Mexico (Page, 1930: 25). Today the best rain forest is found on the sides and tops of the hills within an area, in part at least because the lower land has been utilized for cultivation. The most extensive and least disturbed rain forest areas are in the Chontalpa and Tenosique regions, especially the latter. The Teapa region has some of the most beautiful and lush forests that can be
seen within the State, but the inroads of civilization have cut so deep into the area that these forest remnants, though magnificent, are small. In describing the rain forest at Teapa as he saw it in 1900, Goldman (1951: 259) states: "in the foothill region, where temperatures are fairly high and the rainfall reaches the maximum, towering forest trees also reach their greatest size, often measuring 6 to 10 feet in trunk diameter. In these heavy forests at the time of my visit, even on bright days, the heavy rain drops, or the dew that gathered on the leaves at night, never dried, and everything remained dripping with moisture." A trip into the rain forest, whether it rains or not, inevitably results in the traveler returning to camp in a soaked condition. The undergrowth within much of the Tabascan rain forest is a tangle of vines and brush (well supplied with thorns), and passage through such a wood is impractical without the use of a machete. The three most characteristic rain forest trees listed by Leopold (1959: 32)—the zapote (Achras zapota), the mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla), and the breadnut tree (Brosimum alicastrum)—occur here.

Dry tropical evergreen forest. — Tropical habitat terminology is rather confusing, and I am not positive that the name I am using for this habitat is applied correctly. The name is, however, certainly descriptive. The only area within the State that I have seen and would consider to be of this type is located in the extreme northern portion of the municipio of Balancán. This forest consists of tall trees and closely resembles the Tabascan rain forest habitat except that it is very dry and the forest floor is relatively open. Sections of this habitat may be found interspersed within the savanna.

Fresh-water swamp forest. — Fresh-water swamp forests are located along the muddy streams that flow through much of the Tabascan lowlands.
Those woods are usually very boggy, and often the forest floor is under several feet of water. The trees composing this type of forest are relatively short compared to those within the rain forest region. Most of the woods occurring between the rain forest habitat and the mangroves are of this type. In Figure 3 the fresh-water swamp forest and the marshland are mapped together because the two habitats are geographically intertwined.

**Marshland.** — Much of the coastal lowlands of the State consists of extensive marshland. The extent of the open water varies according to the season; and, during the period of heavy rains, this habitat is largely under water. In the dry season, the marshes are relatively shallow and heavily overgrown with vegetation; open water is found only in the center of the marsh. The most prominent trees within the area are the palms, which occur singly or in clumps interspersed throughout the countryside. Brush tangles occupy the higher ground at the edge of the marsh. The marshland and the fresh-water swamp forest are mapped together in Figure 3 because the two habitats are geographically intertwined.

**Savanna.** — Two widely separated areas within the State have been placed within this category, a section of southwestern Huimanguillo and sections of northern Emiliano Zapata and Balancán municipios. These areas exhibit the driest conditions found within the State and are characterised by wide open expanses of dry grassland interspersed with clumps of palmettos and an occasional palm tree. On the higher ground at the edges of the grassland are situated dense scrub or small woods, often of oak. Although the country is dry on the whole, a small marsh or swamp is often encountered. Of the two areas, the section around Balancán is the drier.

**Littoral.** — The Tabascan beaches are sandy and moderately wide. The higher ground above the beach is covered with a dry scrubby growth except
where man has replaced this vegetation with cocoanut groves. This habitat extends along the entire Gulf coast of the State. There are no offshore islands along the Tabascan coast.

Descriptions of the Major Collecting Localities

This section includes short descriptions of the major collecting localities that I visited within the State. These localities are listed in alphabetical order.

**Balancín.** — The city of Balancín is situated on the west bank of the Río Usumacinta and is located at the edge of a large region of dry, open savanna. This area is probably the driest section within the State. Most of the region around Balancín is under cultivation or used extensively for cattle grazing, but there are a few small wooded sectors. The trees comprising these woods are small, and the floor, unlike that of typical Tabascan forests, is relatively open. The higher ground supports small patches of oak in which *Cissilephera yucatanica* is common. Sections of the open country nearby are covered with a short scrubby growth that attains a height of 5 to 6 feet. In this habitat *Richmondia cardinalis* and *Saltator coerulescens* are found commonly.

**Balancín, 11 mi. N.** — Within a few miles of the rancho where I stayed, several types of habitats could be visited. In the bottomland a short distance from the rancho is a patch of humid woods through which run a number of shallow arroyos. This wood resembles very much the typical rain forest of the Teapa and Tenosique regions. To the south and west of the rancho extend large expanses of open savanna, a grassland with scattered clumps of palmetto. On the higher land at the edge of the savanna are located
Figure 4.

Scene 1.
Littoral habitat. Miramar, Tabasco. Coccoanut grove on the right.

Scene 2.
Marshland habitat. 2 miles south of Miramar, Tabasco.
Figure 5.

Scene 1.

Rain forest habitat. 1 mile east of Teapa, Tabasco. Cerro covered with rain forest and overgrown clearing in lower center.

Scene 2.

Rain forest habitat. 1 mile east of Teapa, Tabasco. Cerro covered with tall rain forest.
Figure 6.

Scene 1.

Rain forest habitat. Río Puyacatengo, east of Teapa, Tabasco.

Scene 2.

Mangrove habitat. 1 mile south of the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Tabasco.
Figure 7.

Scene 1.
Savanna habitat. 11 miles north of Balancán, Tabasco. Dry savanna in foreground and a section of dry tropical evergreen forest in background.

Scene 2.
Savanna habitat. Balancán, Tabasco.
large patches of oak woods. This open country is used extensively for cattle grazing. Extending to the north and east of the rancho are huge sections of dense, dry brush that reach a height of 15 to 20 feet. Further to the north and east extends a large dry tropical evergreen forest of very tall trees. This wood is much drier and the floor is more open than that of the typical Tabascan rain forest.

Chontalpa, 7-11 mi. S. — The road south of Chontalpa passes through a section of tall, dense rain forest. Ten miles south of that town the road drops from the highland rain forest into the swampy lowland along the Río Grijalva. Locally the rain forest is referred to as "la montaña." This area possesses one of the better sections of forest within the State, but with the advent of the road in recent years, it is being rapidly destroyed. Along the road 7 miles south of Chontalpa, the rain forest has been penetrated by a number of small grass-covered fields. In these areas *Aimophila petenica* and *Aimophila rufescens* are found. The sides of the road are lined with many isolated tall trees, often frequented by parrots, doves, and toucans.

Ciudad Pemex. — The environs of Ciudad Pemex are mostly marshy and usually overgrown with water hyacinth. Interspersed among the wet areas is an occasional small wood, and the edges of the marshes are often lined with short brush. Water birds are particularly abundant in this area.

Huastecas. — Huastecas is a local name given to a large area located along the road between Villahermosa and Teapa and often referred to in this report as 17 to 18 miles north or northeast of the latter town. The area is an open marshland that is completely covered with water during the rainy season but during the dry season is an open grassland. The region is interspersed here and there with an occasional large tree.
Hulmanguillo, 8 mi. S. — At this locality, the road dips into a large open marshland covered with tall grass, interspersed with an occasional pond of open water. This area is frequented by *Sturnella magna* and *Muscivora tyrannus*. Dry woods composed of short, scrubby trees are situated on the higher ground that surrounds the marsh.

La Venta. — The La Venta region today is heavily cut over, and most of the woods have been destroyed. Small patches of forest still exist, but the quality is poor. The region is very humid, and the lower ground is usually under water. The locality is a famous archeological site, but all the findings have been removed. In recent years oil has been discovered in the vicinity, and oil lines and diggings scattered throughout the area have resulted in marked destruction of the natural features.

Miramar. — Miramar is a small village on the coast west of Frontera. The beach is sandy and wide enough to allow one to travel along it by automobile, but it offers little to attract shore birds, which are usually not very numerous. The higher ground above the beach, extending for miles in each direction from the village, is lined by coconut groves. Inland a short distance begins the open coastal marshland that is typical of northern Tabasco.

Ocuipan, 4-8 mi. SW. — Southwest of Ocuipan the road enters an area of open, grassy savanna similar to that seen in the Balancán region. Interspersed throughout the area on the higher ground are clumps of forest, and on the lower ground marshes may be present. This country is relatively dry, but not quite so arid as parts of the Balancán region. A typical bird of the area is *Colinus virginianus*.

Pato. — This locality is situated 9 miles north of Balancán and is chiefly open savanna, scattered with palmettos. Much of this country is
burned over regularly in an attempt to combat ticks. The higher ground is covered with oak woods. South of the rancho at Pato is a large marsh inhabited by such birds as *Agelaius phoeniceus* and *Cistothorus platensis*. A large grove of tall mango trees near the rancho is very attractive to the large parrots of the area, particularly *Amazona ochrocephala* and *Amazona autumnalis*.

**Río San Pedro y San Pablo.** -- This locality, on the Campeche line, is at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo. At this point a ferry crosses the river to the Campeche side. The riverbank at this locality is lined by tall mangroves, perhaps 40 to 50 feet high. The floor of this forest is inundated, and the roots of the mangroves, both above and below the surface of the water, form a tangle that is virtually impenetrable.

**Sanchez Magallanes.** -- Sanchez Magallanes is a small town situated on a narrow neck of land between the Gulf of Mexico and the Laguna del Carmen. Just to the east of town is the mouth of the lagoon. Bordering the lagoon are mangrove swamps that differ considerably from those at Río San Pedro y San Pablo. The mangroves at Sanchez Magallanes are very short and scrubby and furnish the natural home of *Dendroica petechia bryanti*. During low tide many sandspits are exposed in the lagoon and are occupied by large numbers of shore birds. On the high land between the ocean beach and the mangrove swamps, grows a dry scrub in which was found *Scardafella inca*.

**Santa Rosa.** -- Santa Rosa, located 10 miles southeast of Tenosique, is surrounded by small hills clothed with rain forest. Nestled at the base of these hills is a lake that is little more than a small pond surrounded by a large swamp. This area is reached by a narrow path through the rain forest from Laguna Cobá.

**Tapijulapa, 6 mi. N.** -- This locality is situated along the road
between Tacotalpa and Tapijulapa. The road runs through a valley in the foothills of the Chiapas mountains. To the west of the road is an area that has been extensively cut over and since overgrown with dense brush. The hills are covered with rain forest and coffee fincas are located at their bases.

**Teapa.** — The city of Teapa is situated at the base of the foothills of the Chiapas mountains. At this locality the Río Teapa leaves the mountains to enter the flat plain of which most of Tabasco is composed. The bed of the river is still rocky at Teapa but becomes muddy a short distance north of town. The smaller Río Puyacatengo is located just to the east of town. The hills around Teapa are all covered with rain forest except where cultivation has made its inroads. Just to the southwest of town stands a large hill (almost high enough to be termed a mountain), which is, according to the natives, located in the neighboring State of Chiapas. A detailed description of Teapa has been given by Goldman (1951: 257).

**Teapa, 1 mi. E.** — The LSUMZ camp was located in a small valley at the base of a group of hills. These are covered with a dense growth of rain forest, but the small valleys between the various hills are cleared for cultivation, usually of corn. The sections under cultivation vary from year to year; as one cornfield is invaded by the rain forest and overgrown, the natives clear another area, and the former cornfield becomes an impenetrable brush tangle. Some of the broader valleys are filled with rubber and cacao groves. The rain forest in the Teapa area is more disturbed than that found near Tenosique and Chontalpa because of the damage wrought by civilization. The only undisturbed forest remaining near Teapa is found on the sides and tops of the cerros that are too steep for cultivation.

**Teapa, 7 mi. W.** — This collecting area is located on the Chiapas line,
TABLE III
GAZETTEER OF LOCALITIES AND IMPORTANT COLLECTING SITES

The following is a list of all mapped localities cited within this work. I have had difficulty in identifying some of the more obscure localities mentioned by previous collectors. Names are very loosely used in this region. Often a locality bears more than one legitimate appellation; and, to add to the confusion, there may be several localities within the State that bear the same name. In obtaining the following information, I have drawn from the American Geographical Society’s "Map of Hispanic America [number NE15 of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec] on the scale of 1:1,000,000 (Millionth Map)" and its accompanying index (1944), Geografía de Tabasco (1958), and the map of Tabasco published by the Secretaría de Agricultura y Fomento, Dirección de Geografía, Meteorología, e Hidrología (1946). The municipio in which cities, villages, and collecting sites are located is given in order to facilitate their location. The elevations, where given were taken from the Geografía de Tabasco (1958). There is much discrepancy among various sources concerning elevations, and I therefore consider these figures to be mere approximations.

Allende. — Village in Centla municipio.

Alvaro Obregón. — Old name for Frontera (see Frontera).

Arenal. — Arroyo in Balancán municipio. There is also an arroyo of this name in Huimanguillo municipio, but the locality in question is almost certainly the former.

Arroyo San Carlos. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). There is a San Carlos in Macuspana municipio and this arroyo is undoubtedly nearby; however, I cannot be positive of its location.

Atasta. — Village in Centro municipio.
Atoyac. — Collecting locality of Mrs. H. H. Smith for Salvin and Godman (1888). This locality is probably in Teapa municipio because the vast majority of Mrs. Smith's specimens bear Teapa labels, but I am unable to locate it definitely.

Balancán. — Municipio located in eastern Tabasco. The city of Balancán is the municipal seat.

Balancán. — City in Balancán municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 60 feet.

Boca del Cerro. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

Bulují. — Village in Tacotalpa municipio.

Campos Magallanes. — Village in Huimanguillo municipio.

Cantamá. — Village in Centla municipio.

Cárdenas. — Municipio in northwestern Tabasco. The city of Cárdenas is the municipal seat.

Cárdenas. — City in Cárdenas municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 81 feet.

Centla. — Municipio in north central Tabasco. The city of Frontera is the municipal seat.

Centro. — Municipio in central Tabasco. The city of Villahermosa is the municipal seat.

Cerro del Tortuguero. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). There is a Tortuguero in Macuspana municipio, and this locality is probably a nearby hill.

Chablí. — Village in Emiliano Zapata municipio.

Chiquihuite. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). This locality is probably in Macuspana municipio, but I am unable to locate it definitely.

Chontalpa. — Village in Huimanguillo municipio.

Chotal. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

Ciudad Peñex. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

Comalcalco. — Municipio in west central Tabasco. The city of Comalcalco is the municipal seat.

Comalcalco. — City in Comalcalco municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 23 feet.

Corosal. — Village in Macuspana municipio.
Cunduacán. — Municipio in west central Tabasco. The city of Cunduacán is the municipal seat.

Cunduacán. — City in Cunduacán municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 26 feet.

El Carmen. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Three villages in Macuspana municipio and one in Centro municipio bear this name. To which of these localities Rovirosa had reference, I could merely guess.

El Limón. — Village in Balancán municipio.

El Limón. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

El Malato. — Village in Centro municipio.

El Zapilote. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

Emiliano Zapata. — Municipio in eastern Tabasco. The city of Emiliano Zapata is the municipal seat.

Emiliano Zapata. — City in Emiliano Zapata municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 48 feet. Formerly known as Montecristo.

Encrucijada. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

Francisco Bueda. — Village in Huimanguillo municipio.

Frontera. — City in Centla municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 6 feet. Formerly known as Alvaro Obregón.

Hacienda Limón. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Probably equivalent to El Limón (see El Limón, Macuspana municipio).

Hacienda Sabanas Nuevas. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Probably equivalent to Sabanas Nuevas (see Sabanas Nuevas).

Hacienda San Diego. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Probably equivalent to San Diego (see San Diego).

Huastecas. — Collecting site of LSUNZ in Jalapa municipio. Often referred to as 17-18 mi. N or NE Teapa.

Huemanguillo. — Municipio in western Tabasco. The city of Huimanguillo is the municipal seat.

Huemanguillo. — City in Huimanguillo municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 97 feet.

Jalapa. — Municipio in south central Tabasco. The city of Jalapa is the municipal seat.
Jalapa. — City in Jalapa municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 130 feet.

Jalpa de Méndez. — Municipio in west central Tabasco. The city of Jalpa de Méndez is the municipal seat.

Jalpa de Méndez. — City in Jalpa de Méndez municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 39 feet.

Jonuta. — Municipio in east central Tabasco. The city of Jonuta is the municipal seat.

Jonuta. — City in Jonuta municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 39 feet.

La Concepción. — Collecting locality cited by Friedmann et al. (1950). There are numerous localities of this name within Tabasco, but since Crypturellus cinnamomeus is recorded from this site, I would be inclined to believe that the La Concepción in question is the one located in Tenosique municipio.

La Encrucijada. — Localité used by Rovirosa (1887). Probably equivalent to Encrucijada (see Encrucijada).

Laguna Cobá. — Lake in Tenosique municipio.

Laguna Corozal. — Localité used by Rovirosa (1887). There is a Corozal in Macuspana municipio, and this lake is probably nearby, although I cannot definitely locate it.

Laguna del Carmen. — Coastal lagoon in Cárdenas municipio.

Laguna del Congo. — Lake in Macuspana municipio.

Laguna Macoacán. — Coastal lagoon in Paraiso municipio.

Laguna Matillas. — Lake in Centro and Macuspana municipios.

Laguna Taciste. — Localité used by Rovirosa (1887). This lake is probably in Macuspana municipio, but I am unable to locate it definitely.

Laguna Tierra Colorado. — Localité used by Rovirosa (1887). There is a Tierra Colorado in Centro municipio, and this lake is probably nearby, although I cannot definitely locate it.

La Palma. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

La Reforma. — Village in Balancán municipio.

La Ribera. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

La Venta. — Village in Huimanguillo municipio

Lino. — Localité used by Rovirosa (1887). This locality is probably in Macuspana municipio, but I am unable to locate it definitely.
Macuspana. — Municipio in south central Tabasco. The city of Macuspana is the municipal seat.

Macuspana. — City in Macuspana municipio, of which it is the municipal seat.

Miramar. — Village in Centla municipio.

Montecristo. — Old name for Emiliano Zapata (see Emiliano Zapata).

Monte Cristo. — Equivalent to Montecristo (see Montecristo and Emiliano Zapata).

Macajuca. — Municipio in west central Tabasco. The city of Macajuca is the municipal seat.

Macajuca. — City in Macajuca municipio, of which it is the municipal seat.

Ocuapan. — Village in Huimanguillo municipio.

Paraiso. — Municipio in west central Tabasco. The city of Paraiso is the municipal seat.

Paraiso. — City in Paraiso municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 10 feet.

Pato. — Collecting site of LSUMZ in Balancán municipio. Often referred to as 9 mi. W Balancán.

Playa Grande. — Locality used by Bovirosa (1887), but I am unable to locate it.

Provincia. — Village in Balancán municipio.

Reforma. — Equivalent to La Reforma (see La Reforma).

Río Chico. — Village in Jonuta municipio.

Río Chilapa. — River in Centro and Macuspana municipios.

Río Chilapilla. — River in Centro and Macuspana municipios.

Río Grijalva. — River connecting the cities of Huimanguillo, Villahermosa, and Frontera.

Río Macuspana. — River in Macuspana municipio.

Río Pedregal. — River forming portion of boundary between Tabasco and Veracruz.

Río Puyacatengo. — River in Teapa and Jalapa municipios.
Rio San Pedro. — River in Balancán municipio.

Rio San Pedro y San Pablo. — River forming portion of boundary between Tabasco and Campeche.


Rio Tepetitan. — River in Macuspana municipio.

Rio Tonalá. — River forming portion of boundary between Tabasco and Veracruz.

Rio Usumacinta. — River connecting the cities of Tenosique, Balancán, Emiliano Zapata, Jonuta, and Frontera.

Sabana del Tinto. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). This locality is probably in Macuspana municipio, but I am unable to locate it definitely.

Sabanas Nuevas. — Village in Centro municipio.

Sagarterra. — Locality cited by Hellmayr and Conover (1948), but I am unable to locate it.

San Carlos. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

Sanchez Magallanes. — Village in Cárdenas municipio.

San Diego. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Two villages in Macuspana municipio bear this name. To which of these localities Rovirosa had reference, I could merely guess.

San Isidro. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

San Juan Bautista. — Old name for Villahermosa (see Villahermosa).

San Ramón. — Village in Centro municipio.

Santa Ana. — Old name for Sanchez Magallanes (see Sanchez Magallanes).

Santa Lucía. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). This locality is probably in Macuspana municipio, but I am unable to locate it definitely.

Santa Rosa. — Village in Tenosique municipio. Often referred to as 10 mi. SE Tenosique.

Santo Tomás. — Village in Tenosique municipio.

Tacotalpa. — Municipio in south central Tabasco. The city of Tacotalpa is the municipal seat.
Tacotalpa. — City in Tacotalpa municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 195 feet.

Tapijulapa. — Village in Tacotalpa municipio.

Teapa. — Municipio in south central Tabasco. The city of Teapa is the municipal seat.

Teapa. — City in Teapa municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 234 feet.

Tenosique. — Municipio in eastern Tabasco. The city of Tenosique is the municipal seat.

Tenosique. — City in Tenosique municipio, of which it is the municipal seat. Elev. 195 feet.

Tierra Colorada. — Village in Centro municipio.

Tortuguero. — Village in Macuspana municipio.

Triunfo. — Village in Balancán municipio.

Tulipán. — Village in Cunduacán municipio.

Valle de Bulújí. — Locality used by Rovirosa (1887). Probably equivalent to Bulújí (see Bulújí).

Villahermosa. — City in Centro municipio, of which it is the municipal seat; it is also the capital of Tabasco. Elev. 33 feet. Formerly known as San Juan Bautista.

Villa Hermosa. — Equivalent to Villahermosa (see Villahermosa).
formed by a small stream of water. Arising from the Tabascan bank of this stream is a small wood-covered hill. This wood is much drier than the Teapa rain forest and more scrubby. The surrounding area is mainly pastureland. The region supports a great variety of pigeons and doves, for example, Zenaida asiatica, Columba flavirostris, and Columba speciosa.

Tenosique, 8 mi. SE. — This collecting site is located at a rancho near the Laguna Cobá. This lake is rather large with much open water, but it is surrounded by a swamp filled with dense brush and a few trees. Therefore, a view of the open water from the shore is impossible. The rancho contains much pastureland, but to the south, along a range of small hills that gets progressively higher as one approaches the Guatemala line, the dense rain forest begins. The rain forest in this area is the best and least disturbed of any I have yet seen in the State, and the number and kinds of birds present substantiate this statement.

Climate

The climate of Tabasco is characterized by a rather uniform and high year round temperature, high humidity, high annual rainfall, and little to no wind. The year is divided into parts, the wet and the dry seasons. February, March, April, and May are the dry months, and the remainder of the year is the wet season. This statement should not imply that the dry season is actually rainless, but only that it is dry by comparison.

In a study on the climate of Mexico, Page (1930: 15) divided the Country into provinces according to temperature and places Tabasco in the southern lowlands province. He characterized this province as "a region of relatively high temperature with low annual range." January was found

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to be the coldest month and May to be the warmest, the mean temperatures being 71.6° F. and 81.5° F., respectively. "The May maximum is a result of the vertical ray of the sun and a small amount of cloudiness preceding the rainy season."

In considering rainfall, Page (1930: 25) has again divided the Country into provinces and has placed Tabasco in the southern Gulf coast rainfall province. This province has "the heaviest recorded rainfall of any province in Mexico," and Teapa, with 183 inches, has the highest annual rainfall of any recording station in the Republic. The average annual rainfall for the province is approximately 80 inches. April has the minimum rainfall, while October has the maximum. "Winter rains are abundant, being produced in part by the northers. The heavy rainfall of summer is a result largely of convection, while the still heavier rainfall of September, October, and November results from tropical storms, convection, and northers."

Brodkorb (1943: 13) gives the annual precipitation of seven stations within the State. This information is stated in millimeters, but I have converted it to inches for the sake of consistency. The data from these stations in order of greatest precipitation are as follows:

- Teapa: 181 inches.
- Tenosique: 83 inches.
- Macuspana: 79 inches.
- Villahermosa: 75 inches.
- Comalcalco: 71 inches.
- Huimanguillo: 71 inches.
- Frontera: 63 inches.
METHODS AND PROCEDURES IN PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SPECIES

A brief discussion will be presented in the following section of each of the 457 species that have been reported from Tabasco. I have not segregated the accounts according to the reliability of their respective records, but have included all reported species within the main text. The name of a species whose occurrence within the State needs verification is placed in brackets. Included within this category are the following situations: old published records based on mislabeled specimens; published sight records of which the validity is doubtful; and my own dubious sight records. An asterisk preceding the name of a species is indication that it has definitely been sighted within the State, but that there are no specimens representing the bird.

The sequence of families, genera, and species follows the Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico, parts I (Friedmann et al., 1950) and II (Miller et al., 1957). This arrangement in many points differs radically from that of such other standard works as the Check-list of North American Birds (1957), but I have chosen to follow rigidly the Mexican Check-list.

Classification follows in general that of the standard reference works, principally the Check-list of North American Birds (1957), Friedmann et al. (1950), Miller et al. (1957), and Eisermann (1955). When I have diverged, the basis for so doing is stated. I have attempted, insofar as possible, to incorporate the findings of the latest works on the various groups of
birds. I have not hesitated to utilize any opportunity to expound my views on current trends in taxonomy. I am particularly opposed to the currently popular merging of strongly marked allopatric forms (species?) in order to demonstrate the close relationship between two populations. This objective is indeed accomplished, but not without sacrifice. The differences between the two forms are slighted. The merging of two or more forms into one species may unravel a taxonomic problem at the specific level, but in actuality the problem has not been solved; it has only been shifted to the subspecific level. Because of the current "lumping" trends, the subspecies is rapidly becoming the most overburdened taxon and is very inequivalent in its value. Races of a single species may in some cases be differentiated only by a statistical computation or in other situations may be very different morphologically, ecologically, and ethologically. At the present "lumping" rate, it will soon be necessary to utilize quadrimomials even to approximate the true pattern of relationship. For example, we may consider the Pipilo erythrophthalmus complex. This complex consists of two major populations that were once treated as two species, P. erythrophthalmus and P. maculatus. Each of these groups is divisible into a number of races. Today, with the merging of these two populations into one species, it is necessary, in order to refer to one of the major groups (P. erythrophthalmus or P. maculatus), to use a vernacular name that is no longer in use (Eastern Towhee or Spotted Towhee). It is impossible to refer to one of these groups by a scientific name. According to the present classification of this species, a subspecies of the "Eastern Towhee" group is as closely related to a subspecies of the "Spotted Towhee" group as it is to another race of its own group. I would much favor the application of the superspecies concept and to consider such a
complex as *P. erythrophthalmus* to consist of closely related species (*P. erythrophthalmus*; *P. maculatus*) rather than to consider it as being a species complex in which some races are closely related and others quite distantly related. We are very inconsistent in our evaluation of specific and subspecific characters, and in some groups we tolerate considerable hybridization and intergradation without demoting the populations to the subspecific level. In other groups the discovery of one intermediate bird is sufficient evidence of intergradation and hence conspecificity between two neighboring populations (*Aimophila botterii* and *Aimophila petenica*, Webster, 1959: 139). On the other hand, I am opposed to the maintenance of races within a species in which less than 75% of the individuals can be identified. In a few cases I have rejected races that have heretofore enjoyed recognition, and my basis for the action is discussed.

In choosing the common name to be used, I have, wherever possible, drawn upon the *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957). For species not covered by that reference, I have followed Friedmann et al. (1950), Miller et al. (1957), or Eisenmann (1955). In situations where two or more names are in use, I have chosen the one that I prefer, although I realize very well that my opinion will not be shared by everyone.

All the specimens that were collected by the four Louisiana State University expeditions are listed under SPECIMENS and LSUMZ. These are on deposit at the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology. I have listed a few of the more interesting Tabascan specimens that are on deposit at other museums, but they are cited in the text. Information given for each specimen includes the following data where available: locality; sex; date; weight (in grams); and collector. If the specimen is a skeleton or alcoholic, I have so stated; otherwise a specimen is a skin. If measurements are
of importance in the text discussion, they are stated after each specimen. The measurements are in millimeters, and those of the wing (w) are of the chord, those of the tail (t) are from the base of the central tail feathers to the tip of the longest rectrix, those of the culmen (c) are of the exposed upper surface, unless otherwise stated, and those of the tarsus (tar) are from the heal notch to the base of the toes. The names of the collectors are represented by the following initials: EA, E. T. Armstrong; DB, D. G. Berrett; MB, F. M. Berrett; LB, L. C. Rinford; JG, J. P. Gee; DL, D. M. Lay; KM, J. K. McDonald; and JW, J. E. Woods.

Following the list of specimens, I have given the PUBLISHED RECORDS for that particular species from Tabasco. I have attempted to make this list as complete as possible, but have for the most part included only citations that specify a particular locality. In certain cases, if the record includes the number of birds involved, this figure has been cited.

In the discussion of the status of the species in Tabasco, I have attempted to cover the subjects of comparative abundance, habitat preference, geographical distribution, seasonal occurrence, and breeding. I have used the following adjectives to describe the degrees of abundance of the various species from highest to lowest: abundant; very common; common (or numerous); uncommon; rare; and transient. The different categories of seasonal occurrence are: permanent resident; summer resident; winter visitant; and migrant. In discussing breeding, the condition of the gonads is given as greatly enlarged, enlarged, slightly enlarged, not enlarged, or not distinguishable.

Each species is discussed at that level rather than at the level of the subspecies. The final paragraph of each account gives the race or races of the species to which I have allocated the Tabascan specimens. Any
taxonomic discussion at the subspecific level is presented here. Lack of a subspecific discussion usually indicates that the species is considered to be monotypic. In situations, however, in which the species is known from the State on the basis of sight records alone, I have not speculated as to which race was probably present, and hence no racial discussion is given. The primary citation for each subspecies is given at the bottom of the page in a footnote.

All sight records mentioned within the text are my own unless they are attributed to someone else.
ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

Family TINAMIDAE

*Tinamus major* (Gmelin)

Great Tinamou


The great Tinamou is a common permanent resident inhabiting the floor of the dense rain forest and of the dry tropical evergreen woods. It has been reported from near Francisco Rueda, Chontalpa, Teapa, Río Macuspana, Balancín, and Tenosique. As is typical of all tinamous, this species is very secretive and difficult to observe; and, until its call is learned, its true abundance cannot be appreciated. During the spring months, its wavering call is a common evening sound of the rain forest and is heard almost every day. On the other hand, it was not heard during October and November. The specimens taken in April and May had greatly enlarged testes.

There is much confusion concerning the subspecific allocation of Tabasco birds. Friedmann et al. (1950: 9) refer Teapa birds to *T. m. percautus*, the pale Yucatan race. On the other hand, Van Tyne (1935: 8), who named *percautus*, referred Teapa specimens to *T. m. robustus*, the dark race.

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2*Tinamus robustus* Selater and Salvin, Exotic Ornith., 1868: 87, pl. 44 (Choctum, Guatemala).

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ranging eastward from northern Caxaca and Veracruz. Hellmayr and Conover (1942: 12) also include Tabascan birds within the range of robustus. There is considerable individual variation within this species, birds ranging in coloration from rich brown to light gray. The two Balancan specimens are grayish and indistinguishable from the lighter individuals of the British Honduran population of percautus, but a specimen of robustus from Veracruz is also, to me, indistinguishable from the Balancan birds. Russell (MS.) believes that the darker British Honduran birds are young individuals that will acquire the grayer coloration with age. He has dark individuals that exhibit patches of gray. I am unable to distinguish between these two races with any degree of consistency, and I would prefer to consider percautus as an invalid form. I feel that individual variation and age difference are the major factors contributing to the great variation within this species. I therefore refer Tabascan birds to robustus. If future field work should prove percautus to be valid, then the Balancan specimens should probably be referred to that race.

Crypturellus soui (Hermann)
Little Tinamou

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. -- 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 27 February 1960 (203.0) DL. 3 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 5 November 1961 (no wt.) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 21) San Isidro, 8 June 1939; Tenosique, 15 June 1939.

This species is a permanent resident throughout the Tabascan rain forest belt and has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. It was found to be the most abundant representative of its family in the Tenosique region, but elsewhere Boucard's Tinamou appeared to be more numerous. The little Tinamou prefers brushy areas to the denser sections of the forest, but it may also be found in the latter situation. As
is true of all tinamous, the abundance of this bird is best gauged by its call, for the bird itself is seldom observed. It will, however, respond to an imitation of its call, and, if the observer is patient enough and is well concealed, he may obtain a view of the bird. The specimen taken in February had greatly enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to *C. g. meserythrus*.  

**Crypturellus boucardi** (Sclater)**

**Boucard’s Tinamou**


The Boucard's Tinamou is a common permanent resident of the floor of the wet, dense rain forest of the State and has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. In most parts of its range this species is the most abundant tinamou, its mournful whistle being a typical evening sound during the breeding season. My notes for 21 February 1961 at Teapa describe my first experience in luring this species to within shotgun range: "On the side of a cerro I succeeded in calling a bird into view. Although the imitation was very poor the bird came as close as 30 feet, looked at me for a few minutes, called again, and walked off, going up the side of the cerro. I followed the bird and got another view, fired a shot, and the bird flew off. A few minutes later I heard presumably the same bird call a short distance away." All the specimens, collected from

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February through May, had greatly enlarged gonads and were in breeding condition.

*C. b. boucardi* occurs from Mexico to Honduras.

**Crypturellus cinnamomeus (Lesson)**

**Rufescent Tinamou**


I have seen this tinamou at only one locality in Tabasco, 11 miles north of Balancín. In this area the Rufescent Tinamou is a common permanent resident of the dry brushy areas and the dry tropical evergreen woods. Its call note is easily imitated, and the bird responds readily to such an imitation. This species has been recorded only from the localities cited above. The two males taken in May were in breeding condition.

Brodkorb (1943: 21) and Friedmann et al. (1950: 11) refer birds from eastern Tabasco and southern Campeche to *C. c. intermedius.* Paynter (1955: 18), however, has presented evidence for considering this race as invalid and merging it with *C. c. goldmani,* the Yucatán form. The latter treatment is probably preferable, and I refer the Tabascan birds to *goldmani.*

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Family PODICIPEDIDAE

Podiceps dominicus (Linnaeus)

Least Grebe

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 29 March 1959 (131.2) DL.

Although previously unreported from Tabasco, this species is a common permanent resident of the open marshes and lagoons of the State. In a drive through the marshland, one often sees Least Grebes swimming in the small water-filled roadside ditches. I have recorded this species from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Paraiso, Comalcalco, Cárdenas, Cunduacán, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and Emiliano Zapata. The specimen taken in March had enlarged testes. On 4 December 1961, 5 miles southwest of Cunduacán, I saw an adult Least Grebe with a downy young. This observation agrees with the experience of Paynter (1955: 21), who found in Yucatan that "these grebes breed more or less throughout the year."

Tabascan birds are referable to P. d. brachypterus.7

Podilymbus podiceps (Linnaeus)

Pied-billed Grebe

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 17 mi. N Teapa: ♂, 16 April 1959 (479.7) DL, w.128.

The Pied-billed Grebe is a common inhabitant of the open marshland and lagoons of Tabasco. I have records for the occurrence of this species dating from 24 October to 7 May and have seen it near Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Cunduacán, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Huastecas, and Ciudad

Pemex. The status of this grebe in Tabasco is somewhat uncertain. The Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 8) states that the breeding range of this grebe extends south as far as the State of México, but adds that the southern limits are uncertain. Undoubtedly a number of the birds observed within the State are migrants or winter visitants; but, on 4 December 1961, L. C. Binford and I saw two adult Pied-billed Grebes and one downy young swimming in a small pond near the road 7 miles southwest of Cunduacán. No Least Grebes were noted in the area, and the young bird presumably belonged to the two adults that it was following. The April specimen had enlarged testes.

I am uncertain as to the subspecific identification of the Tabascan specimen. Two races are possible within the State. P. p. podiceps8 winters through Mexico to Panama, and P. p. antillarum9 breeds "in the Greater and Lesser Antilles, the Virgin Islands, and probably in parts of Mexico and Central America" (Hellmayr and Conover, 1948: 38). The Tabascan specimen falls within the upper limit of the range of measurements given by Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 37) for the latter race. Concerning antillarum these authors also state that it is a rather "ill-defined race, whose claims to recognition need substantiation."

Family PELECANIDAE

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos Gmelin

White Pelican

[Colymbus] Podiceps Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 136 (in America septentrionali [=South Carolina]).

The White Pelican is an uncommon winter visitant or migrant within Tabasco. On 6 March 1961 at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo, a flock of fifty birds was observed soaring overhead. On 3 April of the same year, I saw a flock of ten birds soaring over the marshes 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex. I have not recorded this species on any other occasion in the State. A White Pelican that was banded at Merrill, Oregon, on 26 June 1934, by H. W. Worcester, was collected in Tabasco on 6 November 1934 (Lincoln, 1936: 139). Except for Rovirosa's report, I know of no other records for this species from the State.

Pelecanus occidentalis Linnaeus

Brown Pelican

SPECIMEN. LSUZ. — Miramar: 9, 16 May 1959 (2155.5) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 338): Encrucijada, one specimen, January 1870.

The Brown Pelican is a common permanent resident of the Tabascan coast, especially where there are salt-water lagoons. I have seen this species in greatest abundance near Sanchez Magallanes and the Laguna del Carmen. Rovirosa's record for the Brown Pelican from Encrucijada on the Río Chilapa, approximately 40 miles from the coast, is especially interesting. I have never seen this species at any inland locality within the State. The female taken at Miramar is not in full adult dress, but it had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The Gulf Coast race of this species is P. o. carolinensis.10

10[Pelecanus] carolinensis Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789: 571 (in sinu Charleston [=Charleston Harbor, South Carolina]).
Family PHALACROCORACIDAE

Phalacrocorax olivaceus (Humboldt)

Olivaceous Cormorant


The Olivaceous Cormorant is a permanent resident of the marshland and larger river systems of the State. It was found to be most abundant near Ciudad Pemex and along the Río Usumacinta. On 3 April 1961 in the marshes 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex, I counted approximately 100 individuals sitting in the trees, swimming, or flying past. Flocks of this species are often seen flying along the Río Usumacinta, especially in the early morning hours. At other marshes where one would expect to find this cormorant equally as abundant, the species is absent. I have records for the Olivaceous Cormorant from near Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Jonuta, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Santa Rosa. The specimen taken in May did not have distinguishable gonads.

P. o. mexicanus11 is the race in Tabasco.

Family ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga anhinga (Linnaeus)

Anhinga

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 18 mi. N Teapa; 9, 9 April 1959 (1210.0) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 389): Río Macuspana.

The Anhinga is a common permanent resident of the Tabascan marshland and river systems and is usually found in the trees bordering these bodies of water. On 24 October 1961, 30 miles north of Villahermosa, a flock of twenty-four individuals was observed in circling flight high overhead. I have recorded the Anhinga from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Ciudad Pemex, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, Tenosique, and Santa Rosa. The University of Kansas has three specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman 10 miles east and 19 miles north of Macuspana on 6 May 1955. The female collected in April had an enlarged ovary. Tabascan populations are referable to A. a. leucogaster.  

Family FREGATIDAE

Fregata magnificens Mathews

Magnificent Frigatebird

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—3 mi. E Sanchez Magallanes: d, 17 December 1961 (1395.0) DB.

The Magnificent Frigatebird is a very common to abundant inhabitant of the entire Tabascan coast, but especially numerous near the coastal lagoons. The silhouette of this species against the sky is one of better indications that the coast is not far away. I have seen this bird, however, as far inland as Frontera and 6 miles southwest of Sanchez Magallanes. On 5 March 1961, I estimated the number of frigatebirds off the coast at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo to be between 500 and 1000. They were probably attracted by the shrimp boats and the swirling flocks of gulls and terns. On 17 December 1961, 3 miles east of Sanchez Magallanes,

I found a roosting site of large numbers of this species in the small mangrove islands at the edge of the Laguna del Carmen. I did not notice any nests at that time, but the male collected at that locality had greatly enlarged testes and could well have been in breeding condition. Paynter (1955: 29) found frigatebirds nesting on Isla Contoy off the Yucatan Peninsula in December.

*F. m. rothschildii* is the subspecies occurring along the coast of Tabasco.

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**Family ARDEIDAE**

*Ardea herodias* Linnaeus

**Great Blue Heron**

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Rovirosa (1887: 385): Río Macuspana.

The Great Blue Heron is an uncommon winter visitant to the coastal lagoons, marshland, and larger river systems of Tabasco. There is no evidence that this species breeds within the State. I have records for the Great Blue Heron within Tabasco dating from 24 October to 16 May and from the vicinities of the following localities: Sanchez Magallanes; Chontalpa; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río Chico; Emiliano Zapata; and Santa Rosa. This heron is usually encountered singly, but occasionally in pairs.

The subspecies most likely to be found wintering in Tabasco is *A. h. herodias*, the race under which Brodkorb (1943: 22) cites Rovirosa's record.

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14 *[Ardea] Herodias* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 143 (in America [=Hudson Bay]).
Butorides virescens (Linnaeus)

Green Heron

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—16 mi. S Villahermosa: ?, 11 March 1959 (177.5) DL.

The Green Heron is a very common permanent resident throughout the marshland of Tabasco. The resident population is supplemented by migrating and wintering birds, especially during April and October. In these months the marshes and nearby trees appear to be filled with this species. In distribution within the State, the Green Heron occurs throughout the marshland and coastal lagoons and along the banks of the many rivers. The University of Kansas has three specimens of this species collected by R. W. Dickerman at Cantemó in May 1955. The specimen taken in March did not have distinguishable gonads. On 15 April 1961, 2 miles south of Villahermosa, I observed twenty-five individuals in a tree in the middle of a marsh. In the tree were several nests, but unfortunately I did not investigate further. Paynter (1955: 32) states that birds taken in May on the Yucatan Peninsula were in full breeding condition.

Tabascan birds are of the nominate race B. v. virescens.15

Florida caerulea (Linnaeus)

Little Blue Heron


15[Ardea] virescens Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 144 (in America [=coast of South Carolina]).
The Little Blue Heron is a common permanent resident of the coastal lagoons, marshland, and river systems of the State. The resident population of this species during the nonbreeding season is supplemented by wintering and migrating birds from farther north. I have recorded this heron from near La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Huimanguillo, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Tenosique, and Santa Rosa. The female collected in March did not have an enlarged ovary.

I follow Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 189) in considering this species to be monotypic.

**Bubulcus ibis** (Linnaeus)

*Cattle Egret*

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—18 mi. N Teapa: 2, 1 March 1960 (296.1) DL.


Over the past few years, the Cattle Egret has become a common permanent resident in the open, marshy grassland of the State. It is especially abundant wherever herds of cattle may be found. On 22 April 1959, D. M. Lay and I saw seven wary Cattle Egrets south of Miramar. Two and one half years later, on 24 October 1961, I counted forty-three individuals at the same locality. In contrast, these birds were very tame and allowed me to approach within a few feet. On 1 March 1960, D. M. Lay and J. E. Woods observed 150 Cattle Egrets at Huastecas, 18 miles north of Teapa, and collected the specimen cited above. Additional records and localities for this heron are: ten birds 6 miles southwest of Cunduacán on 4 December
1961; ten birds 5 miles south of Jalpa de Méndez on 4 December 1961:
seven birds 3 miles west of Jalpa de Méndez on 4 December 1961; two birds
4 miles southwest of Ocuapan on 8 December 1961; eight birds 6 miles north
of Campo Magallanes on 12 December 1961; and nine birds 6 miles southwest
of Sanchez Magallanes on 15 December 1961. Tabasco furnishes excellent
habitat for this species, which, at its present rate of increase, will
soon be the most abundant heron in the State. The female collected on 1
March had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The race of this species that occurs within the Americas is B. i.
ibis.16

**Dichromannassa rufescens** (Gmelin)

Reddish Egret

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Cooke (1938: 82): Paraiso, 4 November 1930.

On 24 October 1961, I saw a Reddish Egret on the beach at Miramar.
I have not observed this species within Tabasco on any other occasion. On
4 November 1930, a specimen was collected at Paraiso. This bird had been
banded at Farwell Island, near Port O'Connor, Texas, on 26 May 1930 by J.
W. Stiles (Cooke, 1938: 82). I do not know of any other report of the
Reddish Egret from the State.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 30) include Tabasco within the range of D. r.
rufescens.17

16Ardea Ibis Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 144 (Egypt).
17Ardea rufescens Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789: 628
(Louisiana).
**Casmerodius albus** (Linnaeus)

**Common Egret**


The Common Egret is an abundant permanent resident of the coastal lagoons, marshland, and river systems of the State. During the winter months the resident population is supplemented by winter visitants and migrating birds. Usually, though not always, this species is found in greater abundance than the Snowy Egret. At times the Tabascan marshes are literally white with egrets of both species. On 3 April 1961 in the marshes 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex, I counted 200 Common Egrets and twenty-five Snowy Egrets. On 18 November 1961 at Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, the marshes were filled with egrets. I estimated more than 1000 Common Egrets and approximately 2000 Snowy Egrets. This flock probably contained many wintering birds. In distribution within Tabasco, Casmerodius albus is found wherever there is water. The male taken in May did not have enlarged testes.

The American race of this cosmopolitan species is *C. a. egretta*.18

**Leucophoyn thula** (Molina)

**Snowy Egret**


The Snowy Egret is an abundant permanent resident of the coastal

lagoons, marshland, and river systems of Tabasco; and the year-round population is augmented by winter visitants. The species is usually not as numerous as its larger relative, the Common Egret, but at times it is more so. On 24 October 1961 in the marshes 30 miles north of Villahermosa, I counted over 200 Snowy Egrets and fifty Common Egrets (see also previous account). The testes of the November male were slightly enlarged.

Tabascan birds are referable to *L. t. thula*.\(^{19}\)

**Hydranassa tricolor** ( Müller)

Louisiana Heron

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 19 mi. N Villahermosa: 9, 16 May 1959 (436.6) DB.

PUBLISHED RECORD. Cooke (1938: 82): 12 km. from Macuspana, 6 September 1931.

The Louisiana Heron is a common permanent resident of the coastal lagoons, marshland, and river systems of Tabasco. It was found to be more numerous and regular in the coastal lagoons and along the Río Usumacinta than elsewhere in the State. This species was not observed in large numbers, as were the egrets, but was usually seen singly or in pairs. I have records for its occurrence from the vicinities of the following localities: Sanchez Magallanes; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Huastecas; Ciudad Pemex; Río Chico; and Emiliano Zapata. The female taken in May had an enlarged ovary.

The race that occurs through Mexico is *H. t. ruficollis*.\(^{20}\)

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\(^{20}\)Egretta ruficollis Gosse, Birds Jamaica, 1847: 338 (Burnt Savanna River and Bluefields Creek, Jamaica).
**Agamia agami** (Gmelin)

**Agami Heron**


On 26 April 1960 along the Río San Pedro, D. M. Lay (in litt.) saw a heron that he thought to be of this species because of "its notably short legs." E. T. Armstrong collected the specimen cited above from the edge of a small pool of water in the dry tropical evergreen woods 11 miles north of Balancán. The bird had slightly enlarged testes. Aside from the specimen cited by Brodkorb, I know of no other record for this rare heron in Tabasco.

**Nycticorax nycticorax** (Linnaeus)

**Black-crowned Night Heron**


I have only four personal records for the Black-crowned Night Heron from Tabasco: one bird at Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, on 18 April 1959; one bird at the same locality a few days later on 22 April; one bird flying along the Río Grijalva, 11 miles south of Chontalpa, on 24 March 1961; and one bird 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex on 3 April 1961. By day this heron is usually observed in trees bordering the marshes. The status of *Nycticorax nycticorax* within the State is uncertain. The specimen taken on 18 April had enlarged testes and may have been in breeding condition. Some of the birds seen, however, may have been merely migrants of winter visitants.
North American birds are referable to *N. n. hoactli*.\(^{21}\)

*Nyctanassa violacea* (Linnaeus)

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ. -- 17 mi. N Teapa: 2, 20 March 1959 (598.5) DL.

At Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, one individual of this species was seen on each of the following dates: 14 March 1959; 20 March 1959; and 18 November 1961. On 17 December 1961, I saw seven Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the mangroves 3 miles east of Sanchez Magallanes. I know of no other observations of this heron in Tabasco. The female taken in March is in immature plumage, but it had an enlarged ovary. It is unknown whether or not this species breeds within the State; the birds that were observed could have been migrants or winter visitants.

The Tabascan bird is referable to *N. v. violacea*.\(^{22}\)

*Heterocnus mexicanus* (Swainson)

Bare-throated Tiger Heron


Aside from Weber's record for this species from La Venta, the Bare-throated Tiger Heron has been found, to my knowledge, only in the vicinity of Balancán. Near my camp 11 miles north of that town, this heron was often observed at small pools of water in the open or in the dense woods.

\(^{21}[/Ardea\) Hoactli Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789: 630 (in novae Hispaniae lacubus [=Valley of Mexico]).

\(^{22}[/Ardea\) violacea Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 143 (in America septentrionali [=South Carolina]).
When flushed it usually flies to a nearby tree, begins to call, and thereby produces a tremendous racket. D. M. Lay saw an individual of this species along the Río Usumacinta northwest of Balancán on 2 May 1960. The April specimen is a female in immature plumage; however, the ovary was enlarged. The May female was a breeding adult, the ovary being enlarged and the oviduct containing eggs.

Tabascan birds are of the race *H. m. mexicanus*.

[ *Ixobrychus exilis* (Gmelin) ]

Least Bittern

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Rovirosa (1887: 385): Río Macuspana.

The only report, to my knowledge, of the Least Bittern from Tabasco is that of Rovirosa. Friedmann et al. (1950: 34) evidently do not accept this record, for they do not include Tabasco within the range of the species. I have never seen this bittern within the State, and probably it should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds until its presence has been verified. The bird is easily overlooked, and its occurrence within the State is to be expected.

Brodkorb (1943: 23) cites Rovirosa's record under the subspecies *I. e. exilis*.

**Botaurus lentiginosus** (Rackett)

American Bittern


I have never definitely recorded this species within Tabasco. I have on occasion flushed large, unidentified bitterns, but these could have been

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23 *Tigrisoma mexicana* Swainson, in Murray's Encl. Geog., 1834: 1383 (Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico).

Pinnated Bitterns. The American Bittern is very secretive, and undoubtedly a few spend the winter within the State.

**Botaurus pinnatus** (Wagler)

**Pinnated Bittern**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 14 mi. S Villahermosa: 2, 14 April 1961 (no vt.) DB. 18 mi. NE Teapa: 2, 9 April 1959 (554.0) DB. 


The Pinnated Bittern is a common permanent resident of the Tabascan marshes and wet grassland. It is very secretive and difficult to detect and hence is probably much more abundant than the records indicate. Dickerman (1961: 333) collected the first Pinnated Bittern from Tabasco on 9 May 1955 at Cantem6. He states that he observed at least fifteen birds "in the marshes along the rivers" in that region. Later, on 17 May, he collected two more individuals 3 miles south of Villahermosa. I collected two Pinnated Bitterns from the vicinity of Huastecas on 9 April 1959 and 14 April 1961 and have seen this species near Huimanguillo, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, and Huastecas. L. C. Binford and L. L. Wolf observed an individual 8 miles east of Cárdenas on 19 April 1961. As common as this bittern is in the area today, it is surprising, despite its secretive nature, that it was not discovered earlier. Possibly the species has recently invaded Tabasco and is presently increasing. The specimen taken on 9 April is an immature female and the ovary is not enlarged, but the female collected on 14 April is an adult and had a slightly enlarged ovary.

Dickerman (1961: 333) has recently named the Mexican population of this species **B. p. caribaeus**. The type locality for this new race is Cantem6.

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Family COCHLEARIIDAE

Cochlearius cochlearius (Linnaeus)

Boat-billed Heron

SPECIMENS.

LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 3 April 1959 (624.5) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: d, 3 May 1961 (808.9) EA; 2, 3 May 1961 (592.4) EA. 

In its proper habitat, this species is a common permanent resident within the State. It is usually encountered in groups sitting in trees bordering a body of water. I have seen it in largest numbers in the trees on the banks of Río Usumacinta near Jonuta. On 3 May 1961, E. T. Armstrong observed one adult and three young in a small stream of water in the dense woods 11 miles north of Balancán. He reported that they swam after the manner of a duck with their heads resting upon their backs. On 8 May of the same year at the same locality, I flushed a flock of ten. On 26 April 1960, D. M. Lay encountered Boat-billed Herons along the Río San Pedro and reported that they were "innumerable." Lay also saw four birds of this species in a tree at Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, on 30 March 1960. The University of Kansas has two specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman at Cantem6 on 9 May 1955. L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) observed Boat-billed Herons several times in the marshy country between Villahermosa and Frontera in April 1961. On 3 May 1961, Armstrong collected an adult male and a young female. The adult male was in breeding condition. The ovary of the April female was enlarged.

The race occurring north of Costa Rica is C. c. zeledoni. 26

Family CICONIIDAE

Mycteria americana Linnaeus

Wood Ibis

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 25 mi. N Villahermosa: 9, 18 April 1959 (1710.0) DB.
PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 384): Río Macuspana.

This species is a common permanent resident of the coastal lagoons, marshland, and large river systems of the State. It is most frequently observed while in flight, often soaring overhead in the manner of a vulture. The Wood Ibis is most abundant along the Río Usumacinta between Jonuta and Balancán. In the early morning hours near Río Chico on 22 April 1961, I counted approximately fifty birds flying past in groups of five or six individuals, probably en route to their feeding grounds. I have recorded this species from near La Venta, Huimanguillo, Frontera, Villahermosa, Ciudad Pemex, Jonuta, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán and Río San Pedro. The ovary of the female collected in April was slightly enlarged.

* Jabiru mycteria (Lichtenstein)

Jabiru

On 17 April 1960, 10 miles north of Balancán, D. M. Lay observed several Jabirus soaring overhead with a flock of vultures. In the early morning hours of 21 April 1961 along the Río Usumacinta west of Jonuta, I saw two individuals and possibly a third flying over the river. One bird was very close, almost within shotgun range, and afforded me an excellent view. The natives in the Balancán area are familiar with the Jabiru and refer to it as the "Butarda." They assured me that the bird was fairly common in the region but difficult to obtain. I know of no other observations within Tabasco.
Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE

*Plegadis chihi* (Vieillot)

White-faced Ibis

On 16 May 1959, I saw a White-faced Ibis in the marshes south of Miramar. Approximately a month earlier on 22 April, I had seen a bird near the same locality that was almost certainly of this species. I know of no other observation of the White-faced Ibis within Tabasco.

_Eudocimus albus_ (Linnaeus)

White Ibis

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—18 mi. NE Teapa: ç, 1 May 1959 (974.6) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 384): Río Macuspana.

The White Ibis is a common permanent resident of the Tabascan marshland and coastal lagoons, where it is usually encountered in small flocks of five to twenty-five birds. I have records from the vicinities of Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Jonuta, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. The male taken in May had enlarged testes.

_Ajaia ajaja_ (Linnaeus)

Roseate Spoonbill


The Roseate Spoonbill is an uncommon to rare permanent resident of the marshland of the State, where it is usually seen in small groups of approximately five individuals and is often found together with the White Ibis and the Wood Ibis. I have recorded spoonbills near Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Ciudad Pemex, and Emiliano Zapata.
Family ANATIDAE

Chen hyperborea (Pallas)

Snow Goose


The only known records for the occurrence of this goose within Tabasco are those cited. I doubt that this species very often reaches as far south as Tabasco, but Leopold (1959: 149) states that "small numbers regularly winter in central and southern Mexico."

Friedmann et al. (1950: 37) allocate the Tabascan birds to C. h. hyperborea.27

* Anser albifrons (Scopoli)

White-fronted Goose


In a survey of wintering waterfowl made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 142) counted approximately fifty White-fronted Geese in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa. I know of no other report of the species from Tabasco.

Dendrocygna bicolor (Vieillot)

Fulvous Tree Duck

PUBLISHED RECORDS. Leopold (1959: 142): marshes north and east of Villa Hermosa [Villahermosa], 3635 (including Dendrocygna autumnalis), January 1952. Rovirosa (1887: 387): Laguna Matillas; Laguna Tierra Colorado; Laguna Taciste; Laguna Corosal; Playa Grande; Lino; Sabana del Tinto; San Diego; El Limón.

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27 Anser hyperboreus Pallas, Spic. Zool., 1, fasc. 6, 1769: 25 (in terris borealis ad Orientem 130° longitudinis sive circa Lenam et Ianam fluvios [=northeastern Siberia]).
The Fulvous Tree Duck is an uncommon winter visitant to the marshes of Tabasco. I have seen this duck on only three occasions: one bird 30 miles north of Villahermosa on 24 October 1961; ten birds 17 miles north of Teapa on 18 November 1961; and three birds (possibly domesticated) 5 miles southwest of Cunducán on 3 December 1961. In a waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 142) estimated the number of tree ducks observed in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa to be 3635. In the survey, however, he did not distinguish between this species and the Black-bellied Tree Duck, which was undoubtedly the more numerous of the two birds.

The Tabascan birds are referred to D. b. helva by Friedmann et al. (1950: 39) and the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 69). On the other hand, Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 313) consider this race to be untenable and the species to be, therefore, monotypic. I prefer the latter treatment.

Dendrocygna autumnalis (Linnaeus)

Black-bellied Tree Duck


This species is a common permanent resident of the Tabascan marshes and is usually the most abundant of the waterfowl in the area. I have seen this tree duck in greatest abundance at Huastecas, 17 miles north of

Teapa, and along Highway 180 north of Villahermosa. On 18 November 1961 at Huastecas, I observed a flock of approximately 500 Black-bellied Tree Ducks. In the waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 142) estimated the number of tree ducks in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa to be 3635. He did not distinguish between the two species of *Dendrocygna*, but the majority were undoubtedly of this form. Black-bellied Tree Ducks are popular as domesticated birds and are frequently seen in the yards of the Tabascan natives. The specimen collected in March did not have distinguishable gonads.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 39) allocate Tabascan birds to *D. a. lucida*, but the *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957: 69) does not recognize *lucida* and places all birds north of Panama in *D. a. fulgens*. Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 314) do not recognize *fulgens* and consider all North American Black-bellied Tree Ducks to belong to the nominate race *D. a. autumnalis*. These authors claim that the characters upon which *fulgens* and *lucida* were based are variations due merely to age. I follow Hellmayr and Conover and refer Tabascan birds to *autumnalis*.

[ *Dendrocygna arborea* (Linnaeus) ]

West Indian Tree Duck

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30*Dendrocygna autumnalis fulgens* Friedmann, Condor, 49, 1947: 190 (Lomita Ranch, Texas).

31*Anas* autumnalis Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 127 (in America [=West Indies]).
PUBLISHED RECORDS. Rovirosa (1887: 387): Río Macuspana; Río Tepetitan; Río Chilapilla.

The records by Rovirosa for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco are undoubtedly in error. Brodkorb (1943: 25) says that it seems likely that these records refer to Dendrocygna autumnalis rather than to the West Indian D. arborea.

*Cairina moschata* (Linnaeus)

**Muscovy Duck**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 17 mi. N Teapa: c, 24 May 1959 (no wt.) DL (raised from eggs obtained in the wild); q, skeleton, 24 May 1959 (no wt.) DL (raised from eggs obtained in the wild). 11 mi. N Balancán: c, 7 May 1961 (no wt.) EA.


In nature the Muscovy Duck is an uncommon permanent resident within Tabasco. On the other hand, as a domesticated bird (in various patterns of black and white), it is found commonly in the yards of the natives. The species is an inhabitant of remote ponds and lakes; for example, north of Balancán it was seen regularly in a swamp covered with a dense growth and surrounded by heavy forest. The ducks would frequently be observed in the trees bordering the swamp. Flocks totaling 40 birds were seen in the early morning hours along the Río Usumacinta near Río Chico on 22 April 1961. There are records for the Muscovy Duck from near La Venta, Sanchez Magal­lanes, Frontera, Huastecas (probably domesticated), Río Chico, and Balancán.

*Anas cyanoptera* Vieillot

**Cinnamon Teal**

I have never personally observed this species in Tabasco, but it is probably an uncommon to rare winter visitant to the marshland of the State. In a waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1942, Leopold (1959: 138) counted 200 individuals (including *Anas discors*) in the lagoons and marshes between Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, and Laguna Macoacán and 2000 individuals (including *Anas discors*) in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa. In view of the abundance of the Blue-winged Teal as a winter visitant, that species probably constituted the major portion of the cited figures.

The *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957: 78) refers Mexican birds to *A. c. septentrionalium*.

*Anas discors* Linnaeus

Blue-winged Teal


The Blue-winged Teal is by far the most abundant of the wintering ducks in the Tabascan marshes. I have records for its occurrence within the State dating from 24 October to 5 May. This species is usually encountered in flocks ranging in number of individuals from five to 300. I have records from near Cunduacán, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Ciudad Pemex, Jonuta, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, and Río San Pedro. The specimen collected in March was in male plumage but did not have distinguishable gonads.

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Anas carolinensis Gmelin

Green-winged Teal


I have seen but one individual of this wintering duck in Tabasco, a bird observed in a flock of Blue-winged Teal 7 miles southwest of Cunduacán on 4 December 1961. In a waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 138) counted 100 Green-winged Teal in the marshes and lagoons between Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, and Laguna Macoacán. The species is undoubtedly a regular, but uncommon, winter visitant to the State.

Anas acuta Linnaeus

Pintail


On 1 March 1960, D. K. Lay observed an individual of this species at Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa. On 18 November 1961, I saw a Pintail in the same area, but I have never seen this duck on any other occasion within Tabasco. On the other hand, in a waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 138) estimated the number of Pintails in the marshes north and east of Villa Hermosa to be 12,500. These data might indicate that this species arrives late and leaves early. A cattleman of good repute informed me that ducks were much more numerous in the Tabascan marshes in years past than they are today. This factor, along with the method of survey used by Leopold, may partially account for the discrepancy between his figures and my own.
Anas strepera Linnaeus

Gadwall


Both Friedmann et al. (1950: 42) and the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 73) include Tabasco within the wintering range of this species. I have never seen the Gadwall in the State, nor do I know the basis for its inclusion on the list of Tabascan birds.

* Mareca americana (Gmelin)

Baldpate


The Baldpate is an uncommon winter visitant to the coast and inland marshes of Tabasco. In a waterfowl survey by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 138) counted 300 individuals of this species in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa. On 18 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, L. C. Binford and I observed a flock of nine Baldpates flying eastward along the coast. I know of no other observations of this duck within the State.

Spatula clypeata Linnaeus

Common Shoveler

PUBLISHED RECORD. Friedmann et al. (1950: 42): Tabasco.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 42) include Tabasco within the range of this species. I am not, however, aware of the basis for this inclusion, and I know of no other report of this bird from the State.
Aythya affinis (Eyton)
Lesser Scaup


In a waterfowl survey made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 138) counted 600 Lesser Scaup in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa. On the other hand, I have seen this species on only two occasions. On 4 December 1961, 7 miles southwest of Cunduacán, two individuals were observed in a marsh with a flock of American Coots and Blue-winged Teal; and, on 8 December of the same year, I saw a Lesser Scaup 4 miles southwest of Ocuítapan. The abundance of this winter visitant probably varies from year to year.

* Oxyura dominica (Linnaeus)
Masked Duck

L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) reported seeing in April 1961 near Villahermosa several adults and one young (about half grown) in a pond near the road. To my knowledge, this observation is the only record for the Masked Duck from Tabasco.

Oxyura jamaicensis (Gmelin)
Ruddy Duck


On 5 December 1961, a single Ruddy Duck was observed and collected from a marsh along the road 8 miles south of Huimanguillo. I have not seen this species on any other occasion within the State. The specimen is a male in winter plumage, and it did not have enlarged testes.
Delacour (1959: 227) states that *O. i. rubida*[^33] the form ascribed to Mexico, is not a recognizable race. The species is then monotypic unless *O. ferruginea* is united with it, as has been done by that author. Such action, I feel, is still open to question, and I consider the species to be monotypic.

**Family CATHARTIDAE**

*Sarcoramphus papa* (Linnaeus)

*King Vulture*


The King Vulture is an uncommon permanent resident within Tabasco. It is essentially an inhabitant of the rain forest belt, but it wanders far and wide in its search for carrion and consequently may occasionally be seen anywhere within the State. Usually it is observed soaring high overhead, but rarely it may be seen with the other vultures feeding on road-killed carrion. L. R. Wolfe (*in litt.*) reported an individual near Villahermosa "eating a snake that had apparently been killed by a car." I have personal records for the occurrence of this species from the vicinities of Cárdenas, Chontalpa, Miramar, Villahermosa, Balancán, and Tenosique.

*Coragyps atratus* (Bechstein)

*Black Vulture*


This vulture, one of the most numerous and obvious of Tabascan birds, is an abundant permanent resident throughout the State. Wherever there are people in Tabasco, there this species may also be found. Any Tabascan community can be detected at some distance by the dark haze that invariably hangs above it and, upon closer approach, resolves into a swirling cloud of Black Vultures. These birds are respected by the natives for the service that they render in cleaning the city streets and trash yards. The specimen taken in May did not have enlarged gonads.

The Black Vulture has usually been considered to be monotypic. Wetmore (1962), however, has presented evidence for dividing the species into races. *C. a. atratus*, the large northern race, occurs in the United States and northern Mexico; and *C. a. brasiliensis*, the small tropical race, extends its range south from Mexico into South America. Although Tabasco is within the range (as stated by Wetmore) of *brasiliensis*, the wing of my specimen is longer than the maximum measurement given for that race (Wetmore, 1962: 3). The wing length is within the lower limit of the range of measurements given for *atratus*. I have compared the Tabascan bird with specimens from the United States and San Luis Potosí, however, and it is smaller than any of these specimens. Nothing conclusive can be stated on the basis of one specimen, but evidence indicates that the range of *atratus* extends farther south than assumed, or perhaps Tabasco is within a zone of intergradation between the two forms. At any rate, my specimen is referable to *atratus*.

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Cathartes burrovianus Cassin

Yellow-headed Vulture

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—1 mi. S Miramar: ♂, 16 May 1959 (795.0) DL; ♂, 16 May 1959 (954.6) DL. 18 mi. N Villahermosa: ♂, 22 April 1959 (923.6) DB; ♂, skeleton, 22 April 1959 (900.0) DB. 16 mi. S Villahermosa: ♂, 15 May 1959 (916.0) DB. 18 mi. N Teapa: ♂, 1 March 1960 (928.0) JW. 16 mi. N Teapa: ♂, 17 April 1959 (862.6) DB.

The Yellow-headed Vulture is a common permanent resident of the open marshland of Tabasco. When in flight overhead, it is easily confused with the Turkey Vulture and hence probably often overlooked or assumed to be the latter species. Cathartes burrovianus increases in abundance as one approaches the coast; whereas, the opposite is true of the Turkey Vulture. Solitary Yellow-headed Vultures are seldom observed, but mixed flocks are often encountered along the Tabascan highways feeding on road-killed carrion or sitting on fence posts or trees along the way anticipating the next meal. Yellow-headed Vultures are very tame and will allow an approach to within a few feet. I have records for this species from near Huimanguillo, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancan. All the specimens collected from March through May had enlarged gonads.

Cathartes aura (Linnaeus)

Turkey Vulture


The Turkey Vulture is a very common permanent resident throughout the State, but it is somewhat replaced in the coastal marshland by the Yellow-headed Vulture. Unlike the Black Vulture, this species does not inhabit the towns and villages, but it will join that species in feeding on road-killed carrion. The ovary of the specimen taken in March was greatly enlarged.
The Central American form of this species is the nominate race C. a. aura, and Tabascan birds have been referred to this race. According to the measurements given by Friedmann (1950: 45), my specimen from Teapa is referable to the migratory western race C. a. teter. Both forms undoubtedly occur within the State.

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

Elanus leucus (Vieillot)

White-tailed Kite


The White-tailed Kite is a common permanent resident of the open marshland of the State, but is occasionally found at the forest edge. The breeding population of this species is supplemented during the winter by visitants from farther north. In a drive through the Tabascan lowlands, a common sight is the White-tailed Kite hovering over a wet meadow. The species occurs everywhere throughout the State, except in the dry savanna and the dense forest. The University of Kansas has two specimens obtained by R. W. Dickerman at Cantemó on 9 May 1955. The March male had enlarged testes. L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) informs me that from 12 to 15 April 1961 near Villahermosa, he observed twelve different nestings of this species ranging in stage of development from "young nearly ready to leave the nest.

36[Vultur] Aura Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 86 (in America calidiore [=Veracruz, Mexico]).

to pairs that were carrying sticks and nest building."

E. l. majusculus\textsuperscript{38} is the subspecies in Tabasco.

\textbf{Leptodon cayanensis} (Latham)

Cayenne Kite


This kite is an uncommon to rare permanent resident of the State. Its habitat is given by Friedmann (1950: 97) as "dense jungle near water." On 8 May 1961, 11 miles north of Balancán, an individual of this species was seen in flight circling over the dry tropical evergreen woods of the area. Later the same day, while I was sitting on the bank of a stream that ran through the woods, a Cayenne Kite landed on a limb above me, and I collected it. On 7 November 1961, a hawk, almost certainly of this species, was observed circling over a forest clearing 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. On 14 December of the same year, an individual was seen 5 miles south of Campo Magallanes. Aside from the La Reforma record, I know of no other observations of this uncommon hawk in Tabasco. The male collected in May had enlarged testes.

Brodkorb (1943: 26) contends that \textit{L. c. mexicanus}\textsuperscript{39} is a valid northern race of this kite; however, most authorities today consider this species to be monotypic.

\textsuperscript{38}Eulalus leucurus majusculus Bangs and Penard, Proc. New England Zool. Club, 7, 1920: 46 (San Rafael, California.)

\textsuperscript{39}Odontiorchis palliatus mexicanus Swann, Syn. Accip., 2, 1922: 159 (Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico).
Chondrohierax uncinatus (Temminck)

Hook-billed Kite

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.-- 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 28 March 1960 (233.3) DL (collected by JW).

J. K. McDonald (in litt.) informs me that on 30 and 31 March 1959 between Villahermosa and Frontera, he saw two hawks that he thought to be Hook-billed Kites. On 28 March 1960, J. E. Woods collected the specimen cited above at Teapa at the edge of the rain forest. On 4 December 1961, 6 miles north of Cárdenas, a gray-phase male was observed in a tree next to the road. There are no other observations of this species within Tabasco. The female collected in March had an enlarged ovary. The Hook-billed Kite is undoubtedly a permanent, although rare, resident within the State.

The Tabascan specimen is a female in the brown phase and hence of no value in racial determination. The birds occurring in Tabasco, however, are probably referable to C. u. aquilonis.40

Harpagus bidentatus (Latham)

Double-toothed Kite

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.-- 10 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 22 March 1961 (203.8) DB.

There is only one record for this kite from Tabasco. On 22 March 1961, I collected an immature female 10 miles south of Chontalpa. This bird, as well as those I have seen elsewhere, was very tame and easily approached. The Double-toothed Kite is an inhabitant of tall rain forest and is rarely seen in Mexico. The collected specimen did not have

enlarged ovaries.

The race occurring north of Panama is *H. b. fasciatus*.

**Ictinia mississippiensis** (Wilson)

Mississippi Kite

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 8.7 mi. N Teapa: c, 11 April 1959 (295.2) DL.

The Mississippi Kite is a migrant through Tabasco that has been recorded only in the period of 11 to 18 April. When this species is seen, it is usually observed in flocks of five to twenty birds. On 11 April 1959, a flock of seventeen individuals was noted north of Teapa. On 13 April 1961, five individuals were observed north of Teapa, and again on 18 April at the same locality, ten birds were seen in flight over the area. I saw a single bird near Cárdenas on 14 April 1961. The collected specimen had enlarged testes.

**Ictinia plumbea** (Gmelin)

Plumbeous Kite

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 3 mi. N Teapa: 9, 30 March 1959 (274.2) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 27): La Palma, four, 31 May–6 June 1939; Tenosique, 14 June 1939.

In Tabasco the Plumbeous Kite is an uncommon inhabitant of the forest border and semiopen country, where it is usually seen perched at the top of a high snag. Friedmann et al. (1950: 50) state that this species is "apparently only a summer resident" in Mexico. My records for Tabasco conform to this statement, for I have never seen this kite during the winter months. The earliest date that I have for its occurrence within the State

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is 11 March. In addition to the localities already mentioned, I have recorded this species from the vicinities of Chontalpa and Tapijulapa. The University of Kansas has a specimen that was collected by R. W. Dickerman at Macuspana on 3 May 1955. The specimen taken in March had an enlarged ovary.

*Rostrhamus sociabilis* (Vieillot)

**Snail Kite**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 5 mi. S Miramar: ♀, 22 April 1959 (460.5) DB. 8 mi. N Villahermosa: ♂, 18 April 1959 (424.7) DB. 20 mi. NW Teapa: ♂, 31 March 1959 (338.4) DL. 17 mi. N Teapa: ♀, 13 April 1959 (395.6) DB.

The Snail Kite is a very common permanent resident of fresh-water marshes throughout the State. This species is particularly abundant along Highway 180 from La Venta to Villahermosa and thence to Frontera. It appears to increase in abundance as one approaches the coast. Near Villahermosa at sundown on 13 April 1961, L. R. Wolfe (*in litt.*) reported "at least 200 birds flying in to what apparently was a community roosting area." This kite feeds upon fresh-water snails, and a favorite perch of this bird is easily detected by the number of snail shells scattered about its base. In distribution within Tabasco, the Snail Kite is found throughout the lowland marshy areas, and I have seen it up the Río Usumacinta as far as Emiliano Zapata. The University of Kansas has four specimens that were obtained by R. W. Dickerman from Cantemó, Villahermosa, and Macuspana during the month of May 1955. The LSUMZ collected specimens were in breeding condition. Wolfe (*in litt.*) reports that he located a nesting colony of this species about 25 miles east of Villahermosa. In one leafless tree he located at least fifteen nests. "All nests examined contained from one to three young, from perhaps a week old to nearly ready to leave nest."
Tabascan birds are referable to *R. s. major.*

* Accipiter cooperii (Bonaparte)

Cooper's Hawk

J. K. McDonald (*in litt.*) observed this species at Teapa on 8, 11, and 13 March 1959. He was able on one occasion to study an immature individual for a sufficient period of time to make a sketch of the bird. These observations are the only records for this species from Tabasco. It is probably, however, a regular, although rare, winter visitant to the State.

* Accipiter striatus Vieillot

Sharp-shinned Hawk

On 13 March 1959 at Teapa, J. K. McDonald (*in litt.*) observed an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk. He studied this bird for some length of time and made a sketch of it. There is no other record for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco, but it is probably a rare winter visitant to the State.

*Buteo albicaudatus* Vieillot

White-tailed Hawk

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—18 mi. NE Teapa: ♀, 9 April 1959 (1012.2) DB. 17 mi. NE Teapa: ♀, 8 May 1959 (904.6) DL.

The White-tailed Hawk is an inhabitant of open grassland and savanna, sparsely dotted with a few tall trees. Although I know of no nesting records

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for this species from Tabasco, it is assumedly a permanent resident. I have recorded this hawk from but two localities: in the wet open grassland near Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa; and in the open savanna 5 miles northeast of Francisco Rueda. Three birds were seen near Huastecas on 3, 4, and 9 April 1959 and one bird on 8 May of the same year. In March 1960 J. P. Gee (in litt.) reported a pair of White-tailed Hawks from the same locality. One individual was observed near Francisco Rueda on 8 December 1961. The two Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

The race of this species occurring in North America is B. a. hypospodius. ^43

* Buteo swainsoni Bonaparte

Swainson's Hawk

Flocks of Swainson's Hawks in migration are seen occasionally in Tabasco. On 5 April 1959 at Teapa, J. K. McDonald and I observed a large flock of this species in flight high overhead. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing this hawk also on 15 April of the same year at the same locality. On 28 March 1960, 7 miles west of Teapa, J. P. Gee (in litt.) observed a mixed flock of Swainson's and Broad-winged Hawks. About midmorning he "saw a large swirling flight of buteos containing many well-marked individuals of each species, though Broad-wings were more numerous." He estimated the number of hawks within the flock to be at least seventy-five. These observations are the only records for this hawk from Tabasco, but it is probably a regular migrant through the State.

^43 Buteo hypospodius Gurney, Ibis, 1876: 73, pl. 3 (Medellín, Colombia).
* Buteo platypterus (Vieillot)  
Broad-winged Hawk

The Broad-winged Hawk is a highly migratory species that is occasionally observed in flocks within the State. On 28 March 1960, 7 miles west of Teapa, J. P. Gee (in litt.) observed a mixed flock of Swainson's and Broad-winged Hawks. About midmorning he "saw a large swirling flight of buteos containing many well-marked individuals of each species, though Broad-wings were more numerous. Some Broad-wings were in the woods, too." He estimated the flock to contain at least seventy-five individuals. On 17 April 1961, 12 miles south of Villahermosa, E. T. Armstrong and L. L. Wolf observed a flock of twenty Broad-winged Hawks in circling flight high overhead. These observations are the only records for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco.

Buteo magnirostris (Gmelin)  
Roadside Hawk

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—3 mi. SE Teapa: ♂, 2 March 1959 (no wt.) DL. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1940: 2) Balancán, two; La Reforma; Boca del Cerro; Tenosique; La Ribera. Brodkorb (1943: 28): Balancán, two, 14 May 1939; Reforma [La Reforma], 22 May 1939; Tenosique, 29 June 1939; La Ribera, 1 July 1939; Boca del Cerro, 4 July 1939. Friedmann (1950: 342): Frontera; Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata]. Hellmayr and Conover (1949: 120): Teapa. Salvin and Godman (1900: 77): Teapa.

The Roadside Hawk, the most numerous of Tabascan birds of prey, is an abundant permanent resident throughout the State. In habitat it prefers semiopen country and forest edges and is often seen along the roadways, as its name implies, sitting on fence posts and utility poles. This species may, however, be observed in a wide variety of habitats, from cocoanut groves and mangrove swamps along the coast to the dry savanna and wet rain forest. I doubt, in fact, the existence of a locality in Tabasco where this abundant
little hawk could not be observed regularly. The characteristic call of this species is often of value in identifying birds in the indistinct immature plumage. The specimen collected in March had enlarged testes. L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) observed eight different nests of the Roadside Hawk in the vicinity of Villahermosa from 12 to 15 April 1961. One nest had two nearly fresh eggs and the others contained young in stages of development varying from recently hatched to one-third grown.

The specimen taken at Teapa is typical of *B. m. griseocauda* which occurs through eastern Mexico south to Tabasco. Hellmayr and Conover (1949: 120) state that Teapa birds "are exactly like topotypical Oaxaca specimens." Friedmann (1950: 342) allocates specimens from Frontera and Emiliano Zapata to the small, gray Yucatan race *B. m. conspectus*. Paynter (1955: 60), however, states that typical *conspectus* "has a relatively limited range in the drier northern portion of Yucatán," and Brodkorb (1943: 27) assigns all Tabascan birds to *griseocauda*. There is probably a tendency toward the characters of *conspectus* in the eastern Tabascan birds, but it is probably better to consider the entire Tabascan population to be *griseocauda*.

*Buteo brachyurus* Vieillot

**Short-tailed Hawk**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—3 mi. E Ocuápan: ♀, 11 December 1961 (391.3) DB.

From 24 October to 19 December 1961, the Short-tailed Hawk was found throughout the open marshland and savanna of Tabasco. Whether this species


is rare during the spring months or whether I had merely overlooked it before, I do not know. Both color phases of this hawk were seen, but the light phase was predominant. Usually the birds were observed singly or in pairs soaring at medium height, but inevitably beyond shotgun range. The only perched bird that I saw was the specimen that I collected on 11 December 1961. I have the following records for this species from the State: one bird 10 miles north of Villahermosa on 24 October; one bird at Cárdenas on 25 October; one bird 11 miles north of Teapa on 26 October; two birds (both phases) 4 miles southeast of Tenosique on 16 November; one bird 2 miles southwest of Cunduacán and one bird 9 miles north of Cárdenas on 4 December; one bird 10 miles northeast of Francisco Rueda on 3 December; one bird 3 miles east of Ocuapan on 11 December; one bird 5 miles north of Campo Kagallanes on 12 December; and one bird 7 miles west of Cárdenas on 19 December 1961. The collected specimen was not in full adult dress and did not have enlarged testes.

Rand (1960: 451) has recently made a study of this species and has referred North and Central American birds to *B. b. fuliginosus*.

*Buteo nitidus* (Latham)
Gray Hawk


This species is an uncommon permanent resident of the open savanna and forest edges. It prefers the drier portions of the State and was found to be more common in the dry savanna near Balancán than elsewhere. The Gray Hawk is usually seen perched on an exposed stump or post and is quite tame.

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and easy to approach. In addition to Balancán, I have recorded this species from Campo Magallanes (one bird on 14 February 1961), Tenosique, and Chotal. The male taken in May had only slightly enlarged testes.

On "examining a very satisfactory series of nearly eighty specimens," Hellmayr and Conover (1949: 159) failed to see any justification in recognizing more than one form of this species north of Costa Rica and referred all birds of that area to L. n. plagiatus.47 I follow the opinion of these authors and thus refer Tabascan birds to that race.

Leucochloris albicollis (Latham)

White Hawk

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—10 mi. S Chontalpa: d. 23 March 1961 (697.2) EA.


The White Hawk is a common to uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest belt. I have recorded it only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. White Hawks are usually seen soaring over the rain forest or perched at the top of the tallest tree in the woods. Occasionally, however, an individual is encountered in the dense forest at close range. On 5 November 1961, 8 mi. southeast of Tenosique, a White Hawk responded to my "squeaking" and came very close, exhibiting little fear. The specimen taken near Chontalpa in March had enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to L. a. ghiesbreghti.48

47Asturina plagiat Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, 2, 1862: 1 (Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico).

48Buteo ghiesbreghti Du Bus, Esq. Ornith., 1, 1845: pl. 1 (Hacienda Mirador, several leagues from Veracruz, Mexico).
Hypomorphus urubitinga (Gmelin)

Great Black Hawk

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 18 mi. N, 4 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 25 March 1960 (991.5) DL.
1 mi. S mouth Río San Pedro y San Pablo: ♂, 6 March 1961 (934.9) EA. Pato,
9 mi. N Balancán: ♂, 15 May 1961 (no wt.) DB.

The Great Black Hawk is an uncommon permanent resident within Tabasco,
but it has been observed in a variety of habitats. D. K. Lay collected a
specimen on 25 March 1960 from a patch of forest north of Teapa, E. T.
Arms more obtained a specimen on 6 March 1961 from a mangrove swamp at the
mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and I collected a specimen on 15
May 1961 from a dry patch of oak north of Balancán. The first observation
of the Great Black Hawk within the State was made by J. K. McDonald (in
litt.), who noted an individual between Villahermosa and Frontera on 31
March 1959. On 24 October 1961 in the same area, I saw two pairs of Great
Black Hawks soaring high over the marshland. On 28 April 1961, an indivi­
dual was observed sitting on the bank of the Río Usumacinta near Emiliano
Zapata. An individual of this species was also seen in the rain forest 8
miles southeast of Tenosique on 15 November 1961. The specimen collected
on 25 March had larger testes than the other two males, but the May bird
also had enlarged gonads. The specimen collected on 6 March had only
slightly enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to *H. u. ridgwayi*.49

Buteogallus anthracinus (Deppe)

Common Black Hawk

49Urubitínga ridgwayi Gurney, List Diurn. Birds Prey, 1884: 148
(Guatemala).
This species is a common permanent resident of the coastal and freshwater marshland, but it is occasionally observed in the interior at the forest margin. The Common Black Hawk is most abundant in the coastal mangrove areas, for example, Río San Pedro y San Pablo and Sanchez Magallanes. On 4 March 1961, an individual was seen sitting on the beach at Miramar. There are observations of this hawk from the vicinities of the following localities within the State: La Venta; San Magallanes; Campo Magallanes; Chontalpa; Miramar; Villahermosa; Teapa; Tapijulapa; Río San Pedro y San Pablo; Ciudad Pemex; and Balancán. On 5 March 1961, I collected a female of this species in breeding condition on the Campeche bank of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo.

Tabascan birds represent the nominate race B. a. anthracinus.50

Busarellus nigricollis (Latham)
Black-collared Hawk

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—5 mi. S Miramar: 9, 22 April 1959 (1111.4) DL. PUBLISHED RECORD. Brodkorb (1943: 28): La Palma, 1 June 1939.

This species is an uncommon permanent resident of the marshland of Tabasco, where it is usually observed sitting on a fence post or other prominent perch over or near a large body of water. I have on occasion seen this species soaring over dry, open country near Balancán, but there were marshes in the nearby vicinity. Black-collared Hawks are very tame and easily approached. There are records for this hawk from near La Venta, 50Falcão anthracinus Deppe, Preis-Verz. Säu. Vögel., Mexico, 1830: 3 (Mexico).
Campo Magallanes, Miramar, Villahermosa, Balancán, and La Palma. The female taken in April was in breeding condition.

The nominate form *B. n. nigricollis* occurs in Tabasco.

**Harpia harpyja** (Linnaeus)

Harpy Eagle

**PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Friedmann et al. (1950: 60): Tabasco. Rovirosa (1887: 376): Cerro del Tortuguero, one specimen, 1877; Frontera, one specimen, 1885; near San Juan Bautista [Villahermosa], one specimen, 1886.

The only known records for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco are those of Rovirosa. It is very doubtful that the Harpy Eagle could be found near Frontera or Villahermosa today; and, if it does still occur within the State, it would probably be found only in the remotest areas southeast of Tenosique. This species is an inhabitant of dense, undisturbed forested areas.

**Spizastur melanoleucus** (Vieillot)

Black and White Eagle-hawk

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 14 November 1961 (811.1) DB.

On 14 November 1961 in the rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, I saw and collected the only Black and White Eagle-hawk recorded from the State. It was first observed soaring over the rain forest, occasionally uttering its call—a loud whistled cre-e-e-e, very similar to that of *Spizaetus tyrannus*. The bird responded to my imitation of the call and landed in the top of a tall tree. It called continuously for at least 20 minutes

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51 *Falco nigricollis* Latham, Ind. Ornith., 1, 1796: 35 (Cayenne [=French Guiana]).
before I was able to collect it. This specimen was a female and did not have enlarged gonads. The Black and White Eagle-hawk is probably a permanent resident in the remoter rain forest areas of the eastern section of the State.

* * Spizaetus ornatus (Daudin) *

Ornate Eagle-hawk

The Ornate Eagle-hawk is a rare permanent resident of undisturbed rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods. There are but three observations of this species from the State. On 5 May 1961, 11 miles north of Balancán, E. T. Armstrong observed an individual approximately 40 feet above the ground in the top of a tall tree. On 9 November 1961, L. C. Binford and I saw an Ornate Eagle-hawk soaring over a clearing in the rain forest at Santa Rosa, 10 miles southeast of Tenosique. On 11 November of the same year at Chotal, Binford and I observed another bird, also soaring above the rain forest.

* * Spizaetus tyrannus (Wied) *

Black Eagle-hawk

The Black Eagle-hawk is a rare permanent resident of tall, undisturbed rain forest, but it evidently wanders some distance in its hunting. On 9 November 1961 at Santa Rosa and on 11 November 1961 at Chotal, L. C. Binford and I observed individuals of this species soaring over the rain forest and nearby clearings. Both of these birds were seen together in the air with Spizaetus ornatus. While in flight they incessantly uttered a high-pitched, grating, whistled cre-e-e-e. This species will answer an imitation of its call and sometimes even approach the imitator. On 10
November 1961, L. C. Binford saw an individual in the top of a tall tree in the rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. On 15 December of the same year, I saw a Black Eagle-hawk soaring over the open marshland 6 miles southwest of Sanchez Magallanes. There are no other observations of this species within Tabasco.

* * Circus cyaneus (Linnaeus) *

Marsh Hawk

The Marsh Hawk, although uncollected, is a common winter visitant to the open marshland and open savanna of Tabasco. There is but one observation of this bird during the spring months, an individual seen on 15 April 1961, 15 miles south of Villahermosa. In addition, I have observations of this species ranging in dates from 24 October to 19 December, all during the year 1961. I have observed the Marsh Hawk from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Campo Magallanes, Cárdenas, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Miramar, and Villahermosa.

* * Geranospiza nigra (Du Bus) *

Blackish Crane Hawk

On 11 May 1961, 11 miles north of Balancán, I saw an individual of this species flying in a direct line low over the open savanna near the edge of a large area of dry tropical evergreen woods. The bright orange legs of the bird were very distinctive although it was not close enough to shoot. This observation is the only record from Tabasco.
Family PANDIONIDAE

Pandion haliaetus (Linnaeus)

Osprey


The Osprey is an uncommon inhabitant of the coastal lagoons and the larger river systems of the State. During the rainy season it may also be found in the interior along the flooded marshes. The status of this species within the State is not known, but probably the majority of the birds are migrants and winter visitants. There are, however, undoubtedly a few breeding pairs scattered throughout the State. I have records for the occurrence of the Osprey from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and Jonuta.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 62) assign the Tabascan birds to P. h. carolinensis.52

Family FALCONIDAE

Herpetotheres cachinnans (Linnaeus)

Laughing Falcon


The Laughing Falcon is a common permanent resident throughout the State


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and is one of the more easily observed of the Tabascan hawks. It is typically seen sitting at the top of a bare snag in a forest clearing or in the open marshland or dry savanna. From these perches it utters its weird laughing call (most frequently toward dusk), a sound that may be heard for great distances. Within Tabasco this species is found nearly everywhere, from the seacoast to the rain forests of the foothills. It avoids, however, the dense forest. The April male collected by D. M. Lay had slightly enlarged testes.

Recently, individual variation has been found to exceed that attributable to geographical factors, and the Mexican race _H. c. chapmani_ is no longer considered to be valid by most authorities. Central American and Mexican birds are hence referred to the nominate race _H. c. cachinnans._

_Micrastur semitorquatus_ (Vieillot)

**Collared Forest Falcon**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 11 mi. N Balancán: 9, 5 May 1961 (660.2) DB.

This large falcon is an inhabitant of dense rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. Although there are but a few records for its occurrence within the State, this species is undoubtedly a permanent resident. The Collared Forest Falcon is usually encountered in dense forest, and because of its habitat it is not easily observed; therefore it is perhaps more common than records indicate. This species will respond readily to a "squeak" or an imitation of its call. I have rarely seen this falcon without

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54 *[Falco] cachinnans* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 90 (in America meridionali [=Surinam]).

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applying this method. On 6 November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, an individual came in response to my "squeaking" and landed on a limb approximately 15 feet above my head. The bird exhibited no fear whatever and was still sitting on its branch when I left. Collared Forest Falcons were also seen on 5 and 14 November at that same locality. On 17 April 1961, L. C. Binford observed the species at Teapa. This bird came in response to an imitation of its call, which Binford describes as a loud, half-human, descending "ahow," often repeated three or four times. Occasionally the call is initiated by a series of notes increasing in loudness and pitch: "ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ahow." The ovaries of the female collected in May near Balancán were not enlarged.

The race *M. s. naso* occurs in Tabasco.

**Polyborus cheriway** (Jacquin)

*Crested Caracara*

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 16 mi. N Villahermosa: 9, 22 April 1959 (999.4) DB.

Although previously unreported from Tabasco, the Crested Caracara is a common permanent resident of the open marshland and savanna. This species becomes more numerous as one approaches the coast. On 3 March 1961 in the open meadows and fields just south of Miramar, more than 100 individuals were seen. Crested Caracaras are frequently observed with the vultures feeding on carrion along the highways. The localities of record are the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jonuta, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. The ovary of the

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April specimen was slightly enlarged.

Tabasco is included in the range of *P. c. audubonii.*

*Falco peregrinus* Tunstall

Peregrine Falcon

On 8 December 1961 at Huimanguillo, a large falcon, almost certainly of this species, was seen flying around the village at dusk. It was probably attracted by the large flock of *Aratinga astec* that roosted in the town. On 18 December of the same year, a Peregrine Falcon was observed at Sanchez Magallanes. It dived at a large flock of shore birds sitting on the beach and chased them for some distance toward the sea, but was unable to capture any of them. These two observations are the only records for this species from Tabasco, but it is probably a regular, although rare, winter visitant to the State.

*Falco albigularis* Daudin

Bat Falcon


The Bat Falcon is a common permanent resident of forest clearings and semiopen country throughout the State. Typically, a single bird or a mated pair is observed at the top of an isolated dead tree at the edge of a woodland. Near my camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, a pair was seen almost every day at dusk flying over the rain forest and nearby clearings. In
manner of flight at dusk, this falcon is reminiscent of the animal upon which it is reputed to feed and for which it is named. The Bat Falcon has a very wide distribution within the State and has been recorded from near La Venta, Cárdenas, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jonuta, Balancán, and Tenosique. The February male had slightly enlarged testes, and the April female had an enlarged ovary.

_F. a. albigularis_57 is the race of this species occurring within Tabasco.

_Falco femoralis_ Temminck


On 31 March 1959, J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing this species in the open marshland between Villahermosa and Frontera. On 14 May 1961 in the open savanna 9 miles north of Balancán, I collected the specimen cited above. This bird was sitting on the stalk of a burned palmetto from which it would sally forth to capture a passing insect. On 26 October 1961, 1 mile south of Villahermosa, an individual was observed on a fence post in a wet, grassy meadow. This individual was also catching insects in flight. These observations are the only records for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco. The specimen collected near Balancán is not in full adult plumage, and the gonads were not enlarged.

The measurements of the Tabascan specimen fit into the range of those given by Friedmann (1950: 687) for the small southern race _F. f. femoralis._58

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57_Falco albigularis_ Daudin, Traité d'Ornith., 2, 1800: 131 (Cayenne [=French Guiana]).

58_Falco femoralis_ Temminck, Planches Col., 1, 1823: pls. 121, 343 (Paraguay).

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This race has been taken in British Honduras, but has never been recorded from Mexico. The measurements of my specimen are much too short for the northern race F. f. septentriornalis, the form that would be expected in Tabasco. The bird was molting, however, and the measurements may not be entirely accurate. On the other hand, the difference between the measurements of the Tabascan bird and minimum figures for septentriornalis is quite significant, and I therefore refer the bird to femoralis.

**Falco sparverius** Linnaeus

*Sparrow Hawk*

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. S Teapa: c, 1 March 1959 (74.7) DL.

The Sparrow Hawk is a very common winter visitant throughout the open country and forest edges of Tabasco. A favorite perch of this species is a utility pole or wire from which it is able to do its hunting. During the winter months the bird is especially numerous along the various roadways within the State. Records for its occurrence within Tabasco extend from 24 October to 22 April, and it has been observed in the vicinities of La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Ocuápan, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Rio San Pedro y San Pablo, and Tenosique. The March specimen from Teapa had slightly enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to the nominate form *F. s. sparverius*.

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60 [*Falco sparverius* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 90 (in America [=South Carolina])].

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Family CRACIDAE

**Crax rubra** Linnaeus

**Great Curassow**


The Great Curassow or Faisan Real, as it is commonly called in Mexico, is an uncommon permanent resident of tall rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. It is extensively hunted and was probably at one time more numerous than it is today. Within Tabasco I have personally never seen this species in the wild state, but have heard evening calls that were attributed to this bird by the local natives. I have, however, seen an adult male curassow in captivity within a native's yard south of Chontalpa. D. M. Lay collected a female specimen on 15 March 1959 at Teapa, and J. P. Gee (in litt.) heard several curassows in March 1960 at the same locality. On 9 May 1961, 11 miles north of Balancán, a female was collected by Tomás Otero from the dry tropical evergreen woods of the area. The ovary of the female collected by Lay measured 1 1/4 inches by 3/4 of an inch.

**Tabascan birds are referable to the nominate race C. r. rubra.**

**Penelope purpurascens** Wagler

**Crested Guan**


This species, known locally as the Cojolite, is an uncommon permanent

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resident of tall rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. Except for the record by Rovirosa for Río Macuspana, the Crested Guan has been recorded only from the eastern section of the State. Like the curassow, this species is a favorite food item and is extensively hunted. For this reason it is found commonly only in the more remote sections of the State. The Crested Guan is more arboreal than the curassow and hence more easily observed. It also forages on the forest floor, but when flushed it usually flies to the top of a tall tree. On 4 November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, I observed three individuals sitting in the tops of the tallest trees in the rain forest, so high, in fact, that they were beyond shotgun range.

Tabasco falls within the range of *P. p. purpurascens*.

Ortalis vetula (Wagler)

Common Chachalaca


The Common Chachalaca is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods, but may be found in the swampy lowlands wherever a section of woodland exists. It prefers the edges of

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62 *Penelope purpurascens* Wagler, Isis von Oken, 1830: col. 1110 (Mexico [probably Veracruz]).
woods and nearby thickets to the dense interior of the forest. The Common
Chachalaca is well-known to all the natives within its range from its early
morning and evening calls. One individual is capable of creating a din
such as one would expect only from a large flock of birds. Despite the
racket these birds make, locating an individual or a group, even when they
are calling, is not an easy task. This species is extensively hunted by
the natives for food, but it appears to be able to hold its own. I have
records from the vicinities of La Venta, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Frontera,
Villahermosa, Teapa, Río Macuspana, Macuspana, Balancán, and Tenosique.
The adult May specimens had enlarged gonads. On 16 May 1960, D. M. Lay
obtained a downy chick from the mouth of a Fer-de-lance (Bothrops atrox).
I assume that this bird is a young chachalaca because it possesses the two
bare throat patches typical of the adult.

Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 34) cite the range of O. v. vetula as
extending through Veracruz to eastern Tabasco (Emiliano Zapata) and British
Honduras; whereas, O. v. intermedia is resident in southern Quintana Roo
and Petén. Hellmayr and Conover (1942: 171) extend the range of intermedia
westward into southern Campeche, and Brodkorb (1942: 182) refers to the
birds from eastern Tabasco as intermedia. Later, Brodkorb (1943: 30) refers
to the same birds as O. v. jalapensis, a race that is considered to be
a synonym of vetula by Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 35). There is obvious
confusion concerning the status of some of the races of this species. Both

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63 P[enelope] vetula Wagler, Isis von Oken, 23, 1830: col. 1112
(Mexico).

64 Ornalis vetula intermedia Peters, Auk, 30, 1913: 371 (Camp Mengel,
Río Hondo, Quintana Roo, Mexico).

65 Ornalis vetula jalapensis Miller and Griscom, Auk, 38, 1921: 46
(Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico).
the Teapa and Balancán specimens fit the description and measurements of *vetula*. The tails of both birds are shorter than the minimum figures given by Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 40) for *intermedia*. The Balancán bird may be slightly lighter in coloration, but not noticeably. With the specimens at my disposal, I can discern no difference between the "dull buffy brown" tail feather tips of *vetula* and the "grayish isabelline" ones of *intermedia* (Ridgway and Friedmann, 1946: 30). With the possible exception of a lighter abdomen, *intermedia* from British Honduras appears to be identical with typical *vetula*. Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 40) and Friedmann et al. (1950: 70) state that *intermedia* is of doubtful status. Perhaps some of the variation is on an individual basis or caused by age factors. I prefer to assign all Tabascan birds to the nominate race *vetula*. Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 41) give Teapa as one locality for *O. v. plumbeiceps*.66 It seems highly unlikely that this Central American race has an isolated population in Teapa. In addition, my Teapa specimen is clearly referable to *vetula*.

[ *Ortalis leucoagasta*67 (Gould) ]

White-vented Chachalaca

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Beristain and Laurencio (1894: 220): Tabasco.

Beristain and Laurencio are undoubtedly in error in including Tabasco within the range of this bird. The White-vented Chachalaca occurs from southern Chiapas to Nicaragua and should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds.


67 This population is considered by some authors as a full species and by others as a race within the *vetula* group.
Family PHASIANIDAE

Colinus virginianus (Linnaeus)

Common Bobwhite

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—5 mi. NE Francisco Rueda: j, 10 December 1961 (144.5) DB, w.90, t.48. 2 mi. SW Ocuápan: 9, 9 December 1961 (118.4) DB, w.88, t.44. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Rovirosa (1887: 380): Valle de Buluíj; El Carmen.

In the open savanna between Huimanguillo and Francisco Rueda, this species is a common permanent resident, and coveys, consisting of five to twenty-five individuals, were frequently observed. It prefers open grassland near a patch of woods. On 1 April 1961 in a meadow at the edge of the rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa, I flushed a small flock of seven quail that were undoubtedly of this species. I have not observed Bobwhite in any region except western Tabasco. The specimens that were collected in December had slightly enlarged gonads.

Hellmayr and Conover (1942: 244), Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 337), and Friedmann et al. (1950: 76) state that the race C. v. godmani, occurring in southern Veracruz, probably ranges into western Tabasco. No specimens of this species have previously been taken in that part of the State, and this race is the form one would expect from that area. The characteristics and measurements of the two specimens that were collected near Francisco Rueda and Ocuápan, however, do not agree with those given for godmani, but rather more closely approach C. v. minor, the form that occurs in northeastern Chiapas in the vicinity of Palenque. These specimens are too small for godmani, and the male does not possess the black patch extending

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68 Colinus godmani Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 45 (Jaltipán, Veracruz, Mexico).

69 Colinus minor Nelson, Auk, 18, 1901: 47 (plains of Chiapas, near Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico).
from the middle of the abdomen to the proximity of the vent. This bird
does have a wide black pectoral band, but the dark coloration does not
extend onto the abdomen. The race minor has been reported by Rovirosa
from Valle de Buluji and El Carmen in the vicinity of Macuspana. There
may be scattered populations of this species between Macuspana and west-
ern Tabasco, but there is little suitable habitat between the two areas.

[ Colinus leucopogon (Lesson) ]

White-faced Bobwhite


Beristain and Laurencio (1894: 219) include Tabasco within the range
of this Central American species. Miller et al. (1957: 405) state that
this inclusion was made "without any visible or even directly inferential
foundation," and hence this record is considered to be an error.

Odonophorus guttatus (Gould)

Spotted Wood Quail

PUBLISHED RECORDS. Ridgway and Friedmann (1946: 375): Tabasco. Friedmann
et al. (1950: 78): Tabasco.

I have never encountered within Tabasco this inhabitant of the rain
forest floor, although I have searched for it. It is, however, a very
secretive bird and could easily be overlooked. I am not aware of the basis
for including Tabasco within the range of this species.

[ Cyrtonyx ocellatus (Gould) ]

Ocellated Quail

This record of the Ocellated Quail, a highland form, is probably in error, and this species should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds.

Family MELEAGRIDIDAE

Agriocharis ocellata (Cuvier)

Ocellated Turkey


In Tabasco the Ocellated Turkey is an inhabitant of dry tropical evergreen forests and their edges and is especially fond of brushy cornfields near the forest. It is only known from the eastern section of the State, where the natives reported it as being numerous. I searched for the species in May 1961 in excellent habitat near my camp 11 miles north of Balancán, but failed to find it. D. M. Lay informs me that, although he failed to see a live bird, he did find tracks of this turkey north of Balancán and that he saw a freshly skinned specimen in Balancán in the spring of 1960.

Family ARAMIDAE

Aramus guarauna (Linnaeus)

Limpkin

Published record. Brodkorb (1943: 32): La Palma, 4 June 1939.

The Limpkin is a locally common permanent resident of fresh-water marshes and the marshy edges of rivers and lagoons. It is rather secretive and is more often heard than seen. At my camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique along the Laguna Cobá, the weird call of the Limpkin was heard every
evening and morning, but none of the birds were ever observed. I have recorded this bird from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Frontera, Villahermosa, Emiliano Zapata, and Tenosique. The University of Kansas has six specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman from near Macuspana and Cantemó in May 1955.

Mexican birds of this species are referred to *A. g. dolosus*. Brodkorb (1943: 32) states that birds "from Tabasco and Campeche are somewhat intermediate toward *Aramus ecclopaceus* [guarauna] pictus" (Meyer) of Florida, since they have less white on the secondaries than typical *dolosus*.

He also claims that the measurements of the birds from Tabasco and Campeche are somewhat smaller and feels that "if these differences should prove constant upon examination of more material, the Mexican birds should probably be named."

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**Family RALLIDAE**

[ *Rallus limicola* Vieillot ]

**Virginia Rail**

**Published Record.** Beristain and Laurencio (1894: 214): Tabasco.

Beristain and Laurencio include Tabasco within the range of this species. There has never been any further indication that the Virginia Rail occurs in the State, and the record is probably in error. This species should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds until its occurrence

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Aramides cajanea (Müller)

Gray-necked Wood Rail

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.-- 7 mi. E Ciudad Pemex: 9, 3 April 1961 (420.4) DB, t.57. 4 mi. W El Limón (Balancán municipio): 9, 26 April 1960 (347.6) DL, t.56. 2 mi. W El Limón (Balancán municipio): 9, 26 April 1960 (479.3) JW. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 33): San Isidro, 10 June 1939; Tenosique, 17 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, 4 July 1939.

The Gray-necked Wood Rail is a locally common permanent resident of swamp forest and riverbanks. The bird is rather secretive in habits and is not often seen, but once the evening call of this species is learned, its true abundance is better appreciated. I found it to be most abundant in the Balancán region, where, although not often seen, it was heard almost every evening. On 2 May 1961 north of Balancán, an individual was flushed from a pool of water along the trail and flew into a palmetto, where it sat until I had passed. There are records for this species from the vicinities of Frontera, Ciudad Pemex, Balancán, El Limón (Balancán municipio), Tenosique, San Isidro, and Boca del Cerro; but it has never been observed in the western sector of the State. The April females were in breeding condition. On the evening of 20 April 1961 near the juncture of the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta south of Frontera, I saw two adults and a black downy chick sitting on the bank of the river.

Ridgway and Friedmann (1941: 116), Hellmayr and Conover (1942: 348), and Friedmann et al. (1950: 85) allocate Tabascan birds to A. c. mexicana.72

72Aramides albiventris mexicanus Bangs, Amer. Nat., 41, 1907: 185 (Buena Vista, Veracruz, Mexico).
the race ranging from Tamaulipas to Tabasco. The subspecies *A. c. albi-
ventris*\(^2\) ranges from the Yucatan Peninsula to Guatemala. Although *mexicana*
supposedly differs from *albiventris* in being darker throughout, in possess-
ing less white on the abdomen, and in having a shorter tail, I cannot dis-
tinguish the two races with any degree of certainty. The Tabascan specimens
have as much white on the abdomen as the British Honduran *albiventris*, and
indeed a Oaxacan specimen (Valle Nacional) has more white than any other
specimen that I have seen. Less white, however, is evident in the San Luis
Potosí birds. The Tabascan specimens have the shorter tail of *mexicana*;
however, the San Luis Potosí birds have the longer tail of *albiventris* (♂;
62; ♀, 65). I can distinguish no difference in the shades of coloration
of any of the birds. I believe that the characters of *mexicana* are not
sufficiently stable or that the differences between the two are sufficiently
great for recognition. If, on the other hand, it is to be recognized, I
think the line of demarcation between it and *albiventris* has not been pro-
perly located. I, therefore, refer Tabascan birds to the race *albiventris*.

*Aramides axillaris* Lawrence

Rufous-necked Wood Rail

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 3 mi. E Sanchez Magallanes: ♂, 17 December 1961 (261.8)
LB.

The specimen cited above was collected by L. C. Binford while it was
climbing about the bases of the scrubby mangroves bordering the Laguna del
Carmen. There is no other record for this species from Tabasco. The

specimen had not completely attained adult plumage, although the rufous feathers were beginning to appear. The testes of this bird were slightly enlarged.

Laterallus ruber (Sclater and Salvin)
Ruddy Crake

Although the status of the Ruddy Crake cannot be stated precisely, it is probably a permanent resident. It has been recorded from but two localities, Teapa and 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, but is probably much more widely distributed and more common than suspected. This bird inhabits meadows and fields of tall grass and is only observed when it is accidentally flushed. On 14 March 1960 at Teapa, D. K. Lay obtained the first specimen for the state, a bird captured in a mouse trap. On 21 February 1961 in a grassy field at the same locality, I flushed two birds in quick succession. They flew but a short distance and then dropped into grass. Although I spent half an hour attempting to flush them again, they would not disclose their hiding place. Later that same day, a native brought me a Ruddy Crake, which I purchased. In a field 3 miles southeast of Tenosique, I flushed three individuals of this species on 2 November and one on 3 November 1961. The specimens taken in February and March were not in breeding condition.

I concur with Brodkorb (1943: 34), Paynter (1955: 90), and Russell (MS.) in considering this species to be monotypic. There appears to be more individual than geographic variation, a fact that is readily demonstrated by comparing the Tabascan and British Honduran series.
Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus)

Common Gallinule

I know of only two observations of this species within Tabasco. On 1 March 1960, D. M. Lay reported that he saw a Common Gallinule in the marshes at Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa. On 5 December 1961, L. C. Binford and I observed an individual in an open marsh 8 miles south of Huimanguillo. Before it could be collected, it swam into the reeds at the edge of the marsh and was not seen again.

Porphyryula martinica (Linnaeus)

Purple Gallinule


The Purple Gallinule is an uncommon permanent resident of the open marshland of the State, especially that covered by floating vegetation. Its numbers may be supplemented during the winter months by visitants from farther north. It has been recorded from the vicinities of Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Ciudad Pemex, but I have seen it in greatest numbers in the open marshes near the latter locality. The specimen collected in April had an enlarged ovary. Friedmann et al. include Tabasco within the range of this species on the basis of material in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Mexico City.

Fulica americana Gmelin

American Coot

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 7 mi. SW Cunduacán: 2, 4 December 1961 (415.6) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Leopold (1959: 142): marshes north and east of Villa Hermosa [Villahermosa], January 1952.
Locally, the American Coot is a common winter visitant to the open marshes of Tabasco. In a survey of wintering waterfowl made by airplane in January 1952, Leopold (1959: 142) estimated the population of this species in the marshes north and east of Villahermosa to consist of 4,300 individuals. By contrast, I have seen the American Coot on but two occasions. On 14 February 1961 along Highway 180 south of Campo Magallanes, I saw one bird in a small pond with a large number of jacanas. Later, on 4 December 1961, a flock of forty-six coots was noted in an open marsh 7 miles southwest of Cunduacán. The female taken in December did not have an enlarged ovary.

The North American race of this species occurring in Tabasco is *F. a. americana*.

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**Family HELIORNITHIDAE**

**Heliornis fulica** (Boddaert)

**Sun Grebe**


The Sun Grebe is an uncommon permanent resident of the small shaded streams and the banks of the larger rivers within the State. This species is rather secretive; and, as soon as it suspects the presence of a intruder, it will dive after the manner of a true grebe and swim for the reed-covered shore. In addition to the records already listed, I have observations

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of the Sun Grebe from the following localities: Huastecas, 17 miles north of Teapa, two birds on 31 March 1959; Río Grijalva south of Frontera, two birds seen by D. M. Lay on 5 April 1960; Río Puyacatengo at Teapa, one bird seen by E. T. Armstrong on 1 March 1961; near the juncture of the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta, two birds on 20 March 1961; and 25 miles north of Villahermosa, two birds on 23 December 1961. The University of Kansas has three specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman at Cantemó on 9 May 1955. The male taken on 30 March had enlarged testes.

Family EURYPYGIDAE

Eurypyga helias (Pallas)

Sun Bittern

PUBLISHED RECORD. Friedmann et al. (1950: 88): Tabasco.

L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) informs me that Dr. Travis C. Meitzen, Joe Johnson, and he saw a Sun Bittern "in typical 'spread-out' position in grass at edge of a pond" southeast of Villahermosa in April 1961. Although I have searched for this species throughout the State and have visited habitats of which I thought to be perfect for this bird, I have yet to see it in Tabasco. I am not aware of the basis for the inclusion of Tabasco within the range of the Sun Bittern by Friedmann et al. (1950: 88).

E. h. major is the race that occurs from southern Mexico to northern South America.

Family JACANIDAE

Jacana spinosa (Linnaeus)

American Jacana

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. -- 17 mi. N Teapa: ?, 12 March 1959 (118.3) DL; 9, 12 March 1959 (134.5) DB. 7 mi. E Ciudad Pemex: 9, 3 April 1961 (143.0) EA.


Every Tabascan marsh or slowly moving stream covered with floating aquatic vegetation possesses its quota of this abundant permanent resident. The American Jacana is one of the most numerous of all birds seen in a drive along Highway 180 from La Venta to Villahermosa or from Villahermosa to Frontera. The female collected in April had an enlarged ovary, but the gonad of the female taken in March was only slightly enlarged.

J. s. spinosa76 occurs from extreme southern Texas through Mexico to Panama.

Family HAEMATOPODIDAE

* Haematopus palliatus Temminck

American Oystercatcher

On 12 December 1961, I sighted an individual of this species with a large flock of shore birds on a sandbar in the Laguna del Carmen at Sanchez Magallanes. My attempt to collect it failed. This observation is the only record for the American Oystercatcher from Tabasco.

76[Fulica] spinosa Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 152 (in America australi [=Panama]).
Family CHARADRIIDAE

Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus)
Black-bellied Plover

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: ♀, 12 December 1961 (180.9) DB; 4 mi. N Paraiso: ♀, 7 April 1959 (204.1) DB; Miramar: ♀, 7 May 1959 (211.0) DB; ♀, 7 May 1959 (247.9) DB.

Although previously unreported from Tabasco, this species is a very common migrant and winter visitant along the coast. It is usually observed singly or in pairs scattered along the beach. Dates for its occurrence in the State extend from 24 October to 16 May, and it has been recorded from Sanchez Magallanes, Paraiso, Miramar, and Frontera. In Tabasco this species is usually seen in winter dress, but the specimens collected in May were in spring plumage and had slightly enlarged testes. The specimens taken in April and December did not have enlarged gonads.

Pluvialis dominica (Müller)
Golden Plover

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—19 mi. N Villahermosa: ♀, 18 April 1959 (137.2) DB.

On 18 April 1959, 19 miles north of Villahermosa, I collected a Golden Plover from the edge of a shallow marsh. On 3 April 1961, E. T. Armstrong and I saw an individual of this species at the edge of a small pool of water 3 miles south of Jalapa. There are no other records for the Golden Plover from Tabasco. The April specimen was in winter dress, but had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The Tabascan specimen is typical of P. d. dominica. 77

77Charadrius Dominicus, Müller, Natursyst. Suppl., 1776: 116 (St. Domingo [=Hispaniola]).
Charadrius semipalmatus Bonaparte

Semipalmated Plover

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.-- Miramar: 2, 22 April 1959 (36.6) DB.

The Semipalmated Plover is an uncommon to rare migrant and winter visitant along the Tabascan coast. It is usually encountered singly, and the largest number seen in one day was three, on 22 April 1959 at Miramar. I have records for this species from 24 October to 7 May and from two localities, Sanchez Magallanes and Miramar. The Tabascan specimen taken in April had a slightly enlarged ovary.

Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus

Snowy Plover

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.-- Miramar: 2, 24 October 1961 (36.2) DB.

On 24 October 1961 on the beach at Miramar, I collected the specimen cited above. Later on 16 and 18 December of the same year at Sanchez Magallanes, I saw three and nine Snowy Plovers respectively. These are the only records for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco. The Tabascan specimen did not have an enlarged gonad.

The Miramar specimen is typical of C. a. nivosus,78 although Friedmann et al. (1950: 91) do not include the Gulf coast of Mexico within the range of that subspecies.

Charadrius collaris Vieillot

Collared Plover

78Aegialitis nivosa Cassin, Rept. Pac. R. R. Survey, 9, 1858: 696 (Presidio [=San Francisco, California]).
Although there are no nesting records for this species from the State, I assume it to be an uncommon permanent resident. The Collared Plover may be found, usually in small numbers, along the sandy beaches of the coast and larger rivers or on inland mud flats. I have recorded this species from the State during April, May, October, and December. The lack of records during other months does not mean that this bird was absent but rather that I was not present within its proper habitat at those times. The Collared Plover was conspicuously absent from an area of perfect habitat at Sanchez Magallanes from 12 to 18 December, and this fact may indicate that it does not winter within the State in great numbers. This species has been recorded from the vicinities of Cunduacán, Miramar, Villahermosa, and Emiliano Zapata. The testes of the male collected at Miramar were slightly enlarged.

**Charadrius vociferus** Linnaeus

**Killdeer**

In general distribution the Killdeer is an uncommon migrant and winter visitant within Tabasco, but locally it is common at times. It has been found in such varied habitats as the edges of marshes, grassy meadows, mud flats, or relatively dry savanna, but as yet there are no coastal records. Dates for the occurrence of this species within the State extend from 4 December to 11 March. It has been recorded from near Francisco Rueda, Cárdenas, Ocuápan, Cunduacán, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Río Macuspana.
The race occurring in Tabasco is C. v. vociferus.79

Charadrius wilsonia Ord
Wilson's Plover

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— Miramar: 9, 7 May 1959 (52.3) DB.

The Wilson's Plover has definitely been recorded from Tabasco on only two occasions: three birds at Miramar on 7 May 1959 and four birds at Sanchez Magallanes on 18 December 1961. Its status is unknown, but it is probably an uncommon permanent resident along the entire Tabascan coast. The specimen taken in May had a slightly enlarged ovary.

I refer the Tabascan bird to the nominate race C. w. wilsonia.80

Family SCOLPACIDAE

Numenius phaeopus (Linnaeus)
Whimbrel


The Whimbrel is an uncommon to rare migrant and winter visitant on the sand bars and mud flats along the coast and coastal lagoons of the State. On 24 October 1961 on the beach at Miramar, I saw an individual of this species with a small group of Numenius americanus. From 12 to 18 December of the same year at Sanchez Magallanes, one to three Whimbrels were noted each day on the low tide sand bars of the Laguna del Carmen. I have not

79[Charadrius] vociferus Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 150 (in America septentrionali [=South Carolina]).

80Charadrius Wilsonia Ord, in Wilson, Amer. Ornith., 9, 1814: 77, pl. 73 (shore of Cape Island, New Jersey [=Cape May, New Jersey]).
seen this species at any other time or locality within the State. The only previous record known to me was that of Rovirosa (1887: 384) from the Río Macuspana.

The North American form is *N. p. hudsonicus*.81

**Numenius americanus** Bechstein

**Long-billed Curlew**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.-- 3 mi. W Miramar: 2, 9 March 1960 (681.7) DL, w.280, t.107, c.173.

The bird cited above is the only specimen of this species from Tabasco. There are only three sight records of the Long-billed Curlew from the State to supplement Lay's specimen: J. K. McDonald (in litt.) observed this species at Miramar on 31 March 1959; I saw three birds on the beach at Miramar on 3 March 1961 and three birds again at the same location on 24 October 1961. Since the Long-billed Curlew has been recorded only during the months of March and October, it appears to be principally a rare migrant in Tabasco. It may possibly, however, winter in small numbers within the State.

The specimen collected by Lay had an enlarged ovary.

On the basis of measurements (Ridgway, 1919: 391) the Tabascan specimen is typical of *N. a. americanus*.82

**Totanus flavipes** (Gmelin)

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

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81 *Numenius hudsonicus* Latham, Ind. Ornith., 2, 1790: 712 (in sinu Hudsonis [=Hudson Bay]).


The Lesser Yellowlegs is a common migrant and uncommon winter visitant to the inland marshes and mud flats, but occasionally can also be found on the sandy beaches along the coast. My records for this species extend from 4 December to 7 May, but I am confident it is present within the State over a much longer period of time. The data indicate that this sandpiper is more common during the spring than the fall migration. The Lesser Yellowlegs has been recorded from the vicinities of Cunduacán, Jalpa de Méndez, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Río Macuspana, and Jonuta. The specimen collected at Miramar in May had enlarged testes.

**Totanus melanoleucus** (Gmelin)
Greater Yellowlegs


The Greater Yellowlegs is a common migrant and uncommon winter visitant in the inland marshes and on the mud flats of the State. It may occasionally also be found on the sand bars of coastal lagoons or on the ocean beach itself. Dates for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco extend from 19 October to 23 April, and it has been recorded in the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Huimanguillo, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jalapa, Río Macuspana, and Emiliano Zapata. It is usually observed in small groups numbering from five to ten individuals.

**Tringa solitaria** Wilson
Solitary Sandpiper

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 8 mi. N Villahermosa: 9, 18 April 1959 (40.9) DB, w.129. 18 mi. NE Teapa: ?, 31 March 1959 (38.7) DB, w.129.
In Tabasco the Solitary Sandpiper is an uncommon migrant and an uncommon to rare winter visitant that frequents the inland marshes. As its name implies, this species is usually encountered singly, wading in a small pool of water. I have records for its occurrence within the State on dates ranging from 4 December to 22 April, and it has been recorded from the vicinities of the following localities: Ocuapán, Huimanguillo, Jalpa de Méndez, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jalapa, and Ciudad Pemex. The gonads were not evident in the March specimen, and the April specimen possessed only a very small ovary.

I refer the two Tabascan specimens to the nominate race *T. s. solitaria*. The larger western race, *T. s. cinnamomea*, is also to be expected in the State.

Actitis macularia (Linnaeus)

Spotted Sandpiper


The Spotted Sandpiper is a very common migrant and winter visitant in the State. It can be found in nearly every place where there is water, from ocean beaches, mud flats, and rocky streams to a miniature pool of water in the center of a small community. Unlike most shore birds, it usually occurs singly, and hence its numbers are scattered over a wider area rather than

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83 *Tringa solitaria* Wilson, Amer. Ornith., 7, 1813: 53 (Pocono Mt., Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and New York [=Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania]).

84 *Totanus solitarius cinnamomeus* Brewster, Auk, 7, 1890: 377 (San José del Cabo [=San José del Cabo, Baja California, Mexico]).
concentrated in a few localities. Dates for the observation of this sandpiper within Tabasco range from 24 October to 16 May, but it is undoubtedly present much longer. The male collected in April was in winter dress, but had slightly enlarged testes.

**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus** (Gmelin)

**Willet**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— Miramar: 9, 7 May 1959 (366.1) DB, w.215, t.81, c.64.

The Willet is a common migrant and winter visitant along the coast and coastal lagoons of the State. Dates for its occurrence within Tabasco range from 24 October to 16 May. During this period of time on the sandy beaches and low tide sand bars, the Willet is one of the more numerous sandpipers present. From 12 to 18 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, I counted approximately twenty-five individuals per day. I have recorded the species only from Sanchez Magallanes and Miramar, never from an inland location. The ovary of the specimen taken at Miramar in May was slightly enlarged.

My specimen is typical of the large western race *C. s. inornatus*, but *C. s. semipalmatus* also probably occurs within the State.

**Arenaria interpres** (Linnaeus)

**Ruddy Turnstone**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— Sanchez Magallanes: d, 16 December 1961 (86.2) DB.

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*Symphemia semipalmata inornata* Brewster, Auk, 4, 1887: 145 (Larimer County, Colorado).

On 12 December 1961 on a low tide sand bar in the Laguna del Carmen at Sanchez Magallanes, L. C. Binford saw an individual of this species in a large flock of shore birds. A few days later on 16 December on the ocean beach near Sanchez Magallanes, I collected the specimen cited above. Presumably it was the same bird seen earlier by Binford. These two records are the only known instances of the occurrence of the Ruddy Turnstone in Tabasco. The male collected in December did not have enlarged testes.

I cannot conclusively identify the Tabascan specimen in winter dress, but by range it should be, and probably is, *A. i. morinella.*

**Limnodromus griseus** (Gmelin)

Short-billed Dowitcher

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: ♂, 14 December 1961 (101.5) DB, w.142, c.58, tar.38; ♀, 14 December 1961 (97.1) DB, w.143, c.61, tar.37.

J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing this species on 18 April 1959 near Frontera. On 14 December 1961 on a sand bar in the Laguna del Carmen at Sanchez Magallanes, I collected the pair cited above. Two birds were seen on 16 and 18 December at the same locality. There are no other records for a dowitcher in Tabasco. Neither specimen from the State had enlarged gonads.

I cannot positively identify these wintering specimens to race. However, evidence appears to favor *L. g. hendersoni.* Although measurements overlap to a great extent among the races of this species, those of the

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87[Prinza] Morinella Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766: 249 (ad maris littora Americae septentrionalis; and Europae [=coast of Georgia]).

88Limnodromus griseus hendersoni Rowan, Auk, 49, 1932: 22 (Devil's Lake, Alberta, Canada).

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Tabascan birds are closer to the averages of hendersoni than to those for L. g. griseus as given by Rowan (1932: 22). Also judging from the wintering ranges given by Pitelka (1950: 43) for the various races of this species, hendersoni would be the more probable race to expect wintering in Tabasco.

**Capella gallinago** (Linnaeus)

*Common Snipe*


The Common Snipe is a winter visitant in Tabasco. Although I have recorded this bird on only three occasions, 17 miles north of Teapa on 12 March 1959, 1 mile southwest of Ocuápan on 7 December 1961, and 6 miles southwest of Sanchez Magallanes on 15 December 1961, it is probably much more common than is indicated by these records. The Common Snipe is a secretive bird inhabiting wet meadows and the edges of marshes and is not often observed until flushed.

The race occurring in Tabasco is **C. g. delicata**.

**Crocethia alba** (Pallas)

*Sanderling*

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — Miramar: d, 7 May 1959 (56.8) DB.

The Sanderling is a common migrant and winter visitant along the sandy beaches of Tabasco. I have records for its occurrence within the State

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ranging from 24 October to 7 May. This shore bird is usually found in small groups of five to twenty individuals, but occasionally a lone straggler is encountered. The Sanderling has been found at two localities on the coast, Sanchez Magallanes and Miramar. There are also two inland records within the State. D. M. Lay reported that the Sanderling was plentiful on 6 April 1960 along the banks of the Río Usumacinta near Jonuta, 40 miles from the coast; and on 3 April 1961, E. T. Armstrong and I saw an individual of this species 50 miles inland at the edge of a small pool of water 3 miles south of Jalapa. The specimen collected in May was in spring plumage and had slightly enlarged testes.

_Serrenetes pusillus_ (Linnaeus)

_Semipalmated Sandpiper_

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—Miramar: d, 24 October 1961 (25.7) DB.

The specimen cited above is the only record for this species from Tabasco. It was collected on the sandy beach at Miramar from a group of Least Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, and Sanderlings. The bird was very fat, and its testes were barely distinguishable. Friedmann et al. (1950: 99) state, with reference to Mexico, that the Semipalmated Sandpiper has been "definitely recorded to date only from Cozumel Island and Quintana Roo."

_Serrenetes mauri_ Cabanis

_Western Sandpiper_

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—Miramar: d, 24 October 1961 (21.4) MB; d, 24 October 1961 (19.5) DB.

The Western Sandpiper has been recorded on the Tabascan coast on only
two occasions. On 24 October 1961 at Miramar, I counted fifteen individuals of this species on the beach among a mixed group of shore birds. On that particular day *Ereunetes mauri* was the most numerous of the "peep" sandpipers. On 12 December 1961, a single individual was observed on a sand bar at Sanchez Magallanes. The two males collected at Miramar did not have enlarged testes.

*Erolia minutilla* (Vieillot)

Least Sandpiper


This species is a common migrant and winter visitant in the State. Within Tabasco it is usually found in small flocks on fresh-water mud flats, but is also sometimes seen on the coastal beaches. It has been recorded within the State from 24 October to 7 May, but it undoubtedly occurs over a much longer period of time. I have recorded it from the vicinities of Cádiz, Jalpa de Méndez, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, and Jalapa. The female taken at Miramar in April had a slightly enlarged ovary.

*Erolia bairdii* (Coues)

Baird's Sandpiper

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—Miramar: ♂, 24 October 1961 (27.5) LB.

On 24 October 1961 on the beach at Miramar, L. C. Binford collected the specimen cited above, which represents the only record from Tabasco. The ovary of the bird was not enlarged.
Erolia melanotos (Vieillot)
Pectoral Sandpiper

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 18 mi. NE Teapa: 9, 1 May 1959 (49.7) DB; 9, 1 May 1959 (50.9) DB.

The Pectoral Sandpiper is a common spring migrant through Tabasco, occurring principally in shallow fresh-water marshes and on the associated mud flats. I have records during the spring dating from 21 March to 20 May. Although Friedmann et al. (1950: 100) imply that the Pectoral Sandpiper does not winter in Mexico, L. C. Binford and I saw an individual of this species on 4 December 1961, 5 miles south of Jalpa de Méndez. It is possible, of course, that this bird was merely a very late fall migrant. I have no records for the species during the fall migration, but this circumstance can be explained by my not being in the right habitat at the right time. The Pectoral Sandpiper has been recorded from near Huimanguillo, Jalpa de Méndez, Frontera, and Villahermosa. The females collected in May had slightly enlarged ovaries.

Erolia alpina (Linnaeus)
Dunlin

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— Sanchez Magallanes: 9, 12 December 1961 (49.7) LB.

On 12 December 1961, L. C. Binford collected the specimen cited above from a large flock of shore birds on a sand bar in the Laguna del Carmen at Sanchez Magallanes. This specimen constitutes the only record for this species from Tabasco. Friedmann et al. (1950: 100) do not include the Gulf coast of Mexico within the range of the Dunlin, but state that it is to "be expected in northeastern Tamaulipas." Binford's specimen did not have an enlarged gonad.
The Tabascan specimen is referable to *E. a. pacifica.*

**Micropalama himantopus** (Bonaparte)

**Stilt Sandpiper**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. S Miramar: 2, 22 April 1959 (41.3) DB. 18 mi. NE Teapa: 2, 1 May 1959 (46.2) DB; 2, 1 May 1959 (54.6) DB.

The Stilt Sandpiper is an uncommon migrant through Tabasco, occurring in the shallow fresh-water marshes and on their mud flats. I have recorded this sandpiper on only three occasions: three birds on 22 April 1959, 1 mile south of Miramar; three birds on 1 May 1959, 18 miles northeast of Teapa; and one bird on 12 May 1959, 18 miles northeast of Teapa. This species probably also occurs in small numbers during the fall migration, but has thus far been missed. The three females taken in Tabasco had slightly enlarged ovaries.

**Family RECURRENSIDAE**

**Himantopus mexicanus** (Müller)

**Black-necked Stilt**


In Tabasco the Black-necked Stilt is a very common winter visitant to the open marshes and mud flats of the coastal lagoons. It is unknown whether or not this species breeds within the State, but the majority of the birds observed were undoubtedly winter visitants. I have recorded the Black-necked Stilt in Tabasco from 19 November to 16 May, and from the

vicinities of the following localities: Sanchez Magallanes; Cárdenas; Cun-
duacán; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Ciudad Pemex; Jonuta; and Chable.
This species is usually seen in groups of five to fifteen birds, but on 6
April 1959, I counted forty-five stilts at Frontera. The specimen that I
collected north of Villahermosa had a slightly enlarged ovary.

Family BURINIDAE

Burhinus bistriatus (Wagler)
Double-striped Thick-knee

Published records. Friedmann et al. (1950: 102): Tabasco. Rovirosa (1887:
332): Río Macuspana.

To my knowledge, the inclusion of Tabasco within the range of the
Double-striped Thick-knee is based solely upon the record by Rovirosa. I
have searched for this species in many localities but have neither seen
nor heard it. Being nocturnal and rather secretive, however, this bird can
easily escape detection. It is an inhabitant of open savanna and is to be
looked for in the Ocuapan and Balancán regions.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 102) include Tabasco within the range of
B. b. bistriatus.92

Family LARIDAE

Larus delawarensis Ord
Ring-billed Gull

Specimen. LSUMZ. Miramar: 2, 7 May 1959 (408.3) DB.

92Charadrius bistriatus Wagler, Isis von Oken, 1829, col. 648
(Mexico).
The Ring-billed Gull is an uncommon, but regular, winter visitant to the Tabascan coast. My records for its occurrence range from 12 December to 16 May, but it undoubtedly is present much longer. On the beach at Sanchez Magallanes, this species was noted on 12, 14, and 16 December 1961. I saw individuals on the beach at Miramar on 7 and 16 May 1959, and J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing a banded bird in second year plumage at that locality on 31 March 1959. The collected specimen is a subadult and its ovary was not enlarged.

_Larus argentatus_ Pontoppidan

_Herring Gull_


The Herring Gull is an uncommon winter visitant along the Tabascan coast. I have recorded individuals of this species within the State on dates ranging from 12 December to 22 April, but it undoubtedly occurs over a longer period of time. At Miramar on 4 and 5 March 1961, I counted ten and five individuals respectively. At Sanchez Magallanes from 12 to 18 December 1961, I noted this species in numbers of five to twenty-five per day. The majority of the birds seen in Tabasco were in immature dress. Two individuals banded at Sister Islands, Wisconsin, were recovered on the Tabascan coast (Gross, 1940: 141).

The race occurring in Tabasco is _L. a. smithsonianus_.

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Larus atricilla Linnaeus

Laughing Gull

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — Sanchez Magallanes: 9, 14 December 1961 (256.3) DB. Miramar: ?, 22 April 1959 (219.3) DB; 9, 7 May 1959 (246.3) DB; ?, 7 May 1959 (279.3) DB.

The Laughing Gull, although previously unreported, is a common inhabitant of the Tabascan coast, coastal lagoons, and terminal portions of the larger rivers. The status of this bird in Tabasco is still uncertain, but there is no evidence of its breeding within the State, and undoubtedly the majority of the birds seen were winter visitants. My records for the occurrence of the species in Tabasco extend only from 24 October to 16 May, but I am confident that it is present throughout the year. At Sanchez Magallanes from 12 to 18 December 1961, I recorded the Laughing Gull in numbers ranging from two to fifty per day. I have also seen the species at Miramar and along the Río Usumacinta near Frontera. None of the specimens had enlarged gonads.

Larus pipixcan Wagler

Franklin's Gull

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — Sanchez Magallanes: 9, 14 December 1961 (209.5) LB; 9, 14 December 1961 (217.3) DB. Miramar: 9, 16 May 1959 (190.5) DB.

On 16 May 1959 on the beach at Miramar, I observed seven Franklin's Gulls and collected an adult female. From 12 to 18 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, I recorded approximately 100 individuals per day of this species on the sand bars of the Laguna del Carmen. Although Friedmann et al. (1950: 105) state that the Franklin's Gull winters only "casually on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico," I feel confident that this flock was composed of winter visitants rather than migrants. The specimens taken at this time were in
immature dress, and none of them had enlarged gonads.

*Larus philadelphia* (Ord)

**Bonaparte's Gull**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.-- Sanchez Magallanes: ♀, 14 December 1961 (161.5) LB.

At Sanchez Magallanes, L. C. Binford collected the only specimen of Bonaparte's Gull from the State. This bird was taken from a large flock of Laughing and Franklin's Gulls that were sitting on a low tide sand bar in the Laguna del Carmen. Friedmann et al. (1950: 106) state that "there is no definite record" for this species from the Gulf coast of Mexico. This specimen did not have an enlarged gonad.

*Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin)

**Gull-billed Tern**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.-- 19 mi. N Villahermosa: ♂, 16 May 1959 (182.9) DB; ♂, 16 May 1959 (155.6) DB.

The Gull-billed Tern is an uncommon, but regular, migrant through Tabasco. The record of this species from Sanchez Magallanes on 18 December 1961 may indicate that it also winters in small numbers. It is highly improbable, however, that it breeds in the State. The Gull-billed Tern is usually seen in small flocks in low circling flight over the open marshes. The bird from Sanchez Magallanes is the only Tabascan record for this species from the coast. On 24 October 1961, 17 miles north of Villahermosa, I counted thirty-five terns of this species flying over a marsh. Four individuals were also seen 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex on 3 April 1961. The testes of the male collected in May were not enlarged.
The subspecies occurring in Tabasco is *G. n. aranea.*

*Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas)

Caspian Tern

Although no specimen has yet been taken in Tabasco, this tern is an uncommon to rare winter visitant there. It has been observed both on the coast and along the courses of the larger rivers. On 26 April and 2 May 1960, D. M. Lay reported seeing flocks of terns that he thought were of this species along the Río Usumacinta between Balancán and Jonuta. The following year on 22 April, I also saw a Caspian Tern flying along the Río Usumacinta at Chablé. On 14 and 16 December 1961 on the beach at Sanchez Magallanes, L. C. Binford and I observed two individuals within a large flock of gulls and terns. There are no other definite records for the occurrence of this tern within Tabasco.

*Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus

Common Tern

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: d, 12 December 1961 (125.5) LB.


On 12, 14, and 16 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, my counts of Common Terns were respectively two, three, and six. These birds were observed on the beach and tidal sand bars of the Laguna del Carmen. Although I have never observed this species at any other time or locality within the State, this tern is probably an uncommon to rare winter visitant to Tabasco. The testes of the specimen collected by Binford were very small. Friedmann

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94 *Sterna aranea* Wilson, Amer. Ornith., 8, 1814: 143 (Cape May, New Jersey).
et al. (1950: 108) include Tabasco within the range of the Common Tern, but I am unaware of the basis for this inclusion.

The race occurring in North America is *S. h. hirundo*.95

Sterna forsteri Nuttall
Forster’s Tern

**SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— Sanchez Magallanes: ♂, 16 December 1961 (159.6) LB.**

One or two individuals of this species were observed from 12 to 18 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes. These birds were in a large flock of other gulls and terns upon the sand bars of the Laguna del Carmen. Although there are no other records for Tabasco, Forster’s Tern is probably a regular, although rare, winter visitant to the State. The male collected by Binford did not have enlarged gonads.

I concur with the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 234) in considering this species to be monotypic.

Sterna albifrons Pallas
Least Tern

**SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 25 mi. E Jonuta: ♂, 2 May 1960 (31.2) DL.**

The only specimen of the Least Tern from Tabasco is the bird obtained by D. M. Lay on 2 May 1960, 25 miles east of Jonuta on the Rio Usumacinta. He collected it from a large flock that he had flushed from the riverbank. Previously, on 6 April 1960, Lay had found the Least Tern plentiful along the river near Jonuta. On 22 April of the following year, I saw an individual

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95 *Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 137 (in Europe [=Sweden]).
of this species flying along the Río Usumacinta near Chablé. On 25 March 1961, I saw a bird flying along the Río Grijalva 11 miles south of Chontalpa. There are no other records for Tabasco. Although the status of the Least Tern in the State is unknown, the possibility that it may breed is suggested by the breeding condition (breeding plumage and greatly enlarged testes) of Lay's specimen as well as by the numbers in which he saw the species during the months of April and May.

The specimen collected by Lay is referable to *S. a. antillarum*.

**Thalasseus maximus** (Boddaert)

*Royal Tern*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: ♀, 14 December 1961 (452.2) DB; ♀, 7 May 1959 (406.6) DB; ♀, 7 May 1959 (393.8) DB; ♀, 16 May 1959 (413.9) DB.

The Royal Tern, although previously unreported for the State, is a common winter visitant along the coast and larger rivers. Whether or not this species breeds within Tabasco is unknown, but I feel that its doing so is unlikely. My records for its occurrence in the State range only from 12 December to 16 May, but it probably occurs in small numbers throughout the year. There are records from Sanchez Magallanes, Miramar, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and Chablé. The Royal Tern is usually the most abundant bird within the large flocks of gulls and terns that one encounters along the beach or the shores of the coastal lagoons. For example, at Sanchez Magallanes from 12 to 18 December 1961, I estimated the number of Royal Terns present to be approximately 200, more than any other charadriiform bird.

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occurring there at the time. None of the specimens from Tabasco had enlarged gonads.

I refer Tabascan birds to *T. m. maximus*.

**Thalasseus sandvicensis** (Latham)

*Cabot's Tern*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: ♀, 16 December 1961 (232.9) LB. Miramar: 9, 7 May 1959 (204.0) DB.

On 7 May 1959 on the beach at Miramar, a group of twenty Cabot's Terns was observed among the larger flocks of *Thalasseus maximus* and *Larus atricilla*. The first specimen for the State was collected that day. At Sanchez Magallanes from 12 to 18 December 1961, this species was noted in numbers ranging from ten to forty individuals per day. These are the only records for Cabot's Tern in Tabasco. Although its exact status is still unknown, it is probably a regular winter visitant, but rather sporadic in distribution. The two specimens did not possess enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are of the race *T. s. acufaflavida*.

Family **Rynchopidae**

**Rynchops nigra** Linnaeus

*Black Skimmer*


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97 *Sterna maxima* Boddaert, Table Planch. Enlum., 1783: 58 (Cayenne [=French Guiana]).

During December 1961 this species was found to be numerous on the low tide sand bars of the Laguna del Carmen near the town of Sanchez Magallanes. From 12 to 18 December, I estimated numbers ranging from 100 to 175 per day. I have never seen skimmers at any other locality or time along the coast of Tabasco. Although Friedmann et al. (1950: 112) include Tabasco within the range of this species, I do not know of any specimen from the State previous to my own. The specimen collected at Sanchez Magallanes had a slightly enlarged ovary. Whether or not the Black Skimmer breeds in Tabasco is unknown, but the flocks seen in December were probably wintering birds.

The North American race of this species is R. n. nigra. 99

Family COLUMBIDAE

*Columba livia* Gmelin

Rock Dove

The Rock Dove can be found in several towns within the State in a semiferal condition and possibly occurs in some areas in a feral state. The majority of the birds are in the wild plumage, though many white individuals and mixtures of various types occur. I have seen this species in Villahermosa (particularly near the water front), Teapa, Jonuta, and Balancán. To my knowledge, no specimen has been taken within the State.

*Columba flavirostris* Wagler

Red-billed Pigeon

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—7 mi. W Teapa: ♂, 27 February 1961 (272.8) DB.

99[Rynchops nigra] Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 138 (in America [=coast of South Carolina]).
The status of this species in Tabasco is uncertain since its close resemblance to *Columba cayennensis* often prevents satisfactory field identification. Distinguishing the two species at a distance is very difficult, and they are both wary and seldom allow a close approach. J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported observing a Red-billed Pigeon west of Teapa on 14 April 1959. Although I had seen a number of pigeons that might have been of this species in 1959, I was not able to make a positive identification or to collect one until 27 February 1961, 7 miles west of Teapa. On that date I recorded a flock of twenty-five Red-billed Pigeons feeding at the top of a small wood. The specimen that was collected that day was engorged with small purple berries. The following day an individual was seen at Teapa. On 21 March of the same year, I observed a small band of five individuals at rest in the tops of some trees 9 miles south of Huimanguillo. On 17 April 1961 at Teapa, L. C. Binford observed a pigeon of this species. The female collected in February did not have an enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to the nominate race *C. f. flavirostris*.  

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*Pseudo* 

**Columba cayennensis** Bonnaterre  

**Pale-vented Pigeon**

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The Pale-vented Pigeon is an inhabitant of rain forest margins, open marshland, and savanna with scattered woods. Typically it is seen singly

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100 *Columba flavirostris* Wagler, Isis von Oken, 5, 1831: col. 519 (Mexico [=Veracruz, Mexico]).
or in small flocks at the top of a tree within a clearing or at the forest edge, but I have observed it elsewhere, for example, feeding on the ground in cattle corrals. This species is rather sporadic in its distribution, common in some localities and nonexistent at other similar locations. Although I have recorded this pigeon from a number of localities (La Venta, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Ciudad Pemex, Jonuta, and Balancán), I found it most numerous in the open savanna edged with dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. At Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, E. T. Armstrong and I noted fifteen individuals on 14 May and five on 15 May 1961. I do not know whether or not this species is a permanent resident in the State. I have no records of its occurrence during the winter months despite the fact that I have visited, during that time of the year, localities where it had been present in the spring. Both specimens collected in March were in breeding condition.

*C. c. pallidicrissa* is the subspecies that extends its range into Tabasco.

**Columba speciosa** Gmelin

**Scaled Pigeon**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 7 mi. W Teapa: δ, 28 March 1960 (237.0) DL; 9, 28 March 1960 (246.5) DL.

The first observation of this large pigeon in Tabasco was made by J. K. McDonald (*in litt.*) on 5 April 1959, 7 miles west of Teapa in a small isolated wood. On 28 March of the following year, D. K. Lay and J. P. Gee observed this species at the same locality, and Lay collected the two


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specimens listed above. On 27 February 1961, again at the same locality, I observed two Scaled Pigeons among numbers of *Columba flavirostris* and *Zenaida asiatica* in the tops of the trees. On 9 November 1961, L. C. Binford and I saw an individual of this species in the dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. Although nowhere plentiful, this pigeon is probably a permanent resident throughout the rain forest belt of Tabasco. The female collected by Lay was in breeding condition, but the male did not possess enlarged testes.

**Columba nigrirostris** Sclater

*Short-billed Pigeon*


The specimen from La Reforma and my bird from Chontalpa are, to my knowledge, the only records for this rare pigeon in Tabasco. The specimen from Chontalpa was found in dense rain forest, approximately 30 feet above the ground. This species has a very loud distinctive call that carries throughout the forest, and it was by tracing this call that L. C. Binford was able to locate the bird. Although rare, the Short-billed Pigeon is probably a permanent resident throughout the dense rain forest sector of the State. The collected specimen had enlarged gonads.

**Ectopistes canadensis** (Linnaeus)

*Passenger Pigeon*

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Friedmann et al. (1950: 116): Tabasco.

The United States National Museum has a specimen of this extinct pigeon from Tabasco; however, the species was probably never more than a
casual winter visitant within the State.

Zenaidura macroura (Linnaeus)

Mourning Dove

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—1 mi. S Miramar: 9, 22 April 1959 (100.8) DB, w.137, t.120, c.14.

The Mourning Dove is an uncommon winter visitant within Tabasco, preferring the open marshlands, meadows, and savannas with scattered clumps of brush and trees. It is frequently seen on utility wires along the roadside. In Tabasco Mourning Doves are usually observed singly, but the specimen taken at Miramar was collected from a flock of twenty-five individuals. I have records for the occurrence of this species within the State ranging from 25 October to 8 May and including the vicinities of Cuazpan, Huimanguillo, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Balancán. In February 1960 at Teapa, W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (in litt.) net banded an individual of this species. The specimen collected at Miramar in April had a slightly enlarged ovary.

I am unable to identify the Tabascan bird definitely to race. I cannot distinguish any stable difference in shade of coloration between Z. m. carolinensis and Z. m. marginella, and there is considerable overlap in measurements. The measurements of my specimen fit those given by Ridgway (1961: 345) for either subspecies. However, in wing and tail length, they are closer to the average measurements of the smaller race carolinensis, but in exposed culmen length, they are closer to the mean for

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102[Columba] carolinensis Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766: 286 (in America [=Carolina]).

marginella. Both races of this species probably occur casually in the State.

Zenaida asiatica (Linnaeus)
White-winged Dove

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—7 mi. W Teapa: 9, 4 April 1959 (142.5) DB, w.152, t.93; 4, 4 April 1959 (194.8) DB, w.164, t.110. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 380): Río Macuspana.

The White-winged Dove is a permanent resident of the forest edge, open marshland, and savanna with scattered trees and thickets. In certain areas this species is very common, but in most parts of the State, it is uncommon to nonexistent. At one locality, 7 miles west of Teapa, this dove was often seen in large flocks, for example, fifty individuals on 4 April 1959. Other localities where this species has been observed are Paraíso, Miramar, Frontera, Villahermosa, and Ciudad Pemex. The specimens taken in April had enlarged gonads.

Judging by range, and range alone, I assume that my specimens are of the race Z. a. asiatica.104 In comparing specimens from various parts of Mexico, I am unable to distinguish any constant color difference between this race and Z. a. mearnsi;105 and, in addition, there is much overlap in measurements given by Ridgway (1916: 378). My specimens will fit into the range of measurements for either race; those of the male are closer to the average measurements of mearnsi, and those of the female are closer to the means for asiatica.


**Scardafella**\(^{106}\) *inca* (Lesson)

**Inca Dove**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—Sanchez Magallanes: \(9, 16\) December 1961 (49.6) DB.

W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (*in litt.*) captured an Inca Dove in a mist net at Teapa in February 1960. This specimen was banded and released. On 16 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, I collected the specimen cited above. A pair of this species was seen that day in the coastal scrub between the mangrove swamps and the beach. Two days later in the same area, L. C. Simford reported nine birds, and I saw three. There are no other records for the State. The female collected in December had a slightly enlarged ovary.

**Columbigallina**\(^{106}\) *passerina* (Linnaeus)

**Common Ground Dove**


Rovirosa’s (1887: 380) record from Río Macuspana evidently has been the only basis for the inclusion of the Common Ground Dove on the list of Tabascan birds. Although I have searched throughout the State for this bird, I have never yet definitely recorded it; but on 16 May 1961, I flushed a pair of ground doves, which were almost certainly of this species, from the side of a road north of Balancán. E. T. Armstrong reported seeing two individuals feeding on the slope of a man-made pit on 14 February 1961 at La Venta.

\(^{106}\) Johnston (1961: 372) proposes combining the genera **Scardafella** and **Columbigallina** with the South American genus **Columbina**.
The race occurring in Mexico is *C. p. pallescens*.

**Columbigallina talpacoti** (Temminck)

Ruddy Ground Dove


This abundant permanent resident is the most numerous member of its family in Tabasco and occurs virtually all over the State. In habitat it prefers the forest edge, meadows, roadsides, and the edges of towns. In some towns, for example, Balancán, the Ruddy Ground Dove is abundant in the streets and yards and appears to be almost domesticated. It is usually observed in small flocks feeding upon the ground. The March male and the December and April females had enlarged gonads. The male collected in May was an immature bird with small testes.

*C. t. rufipennis* is the subspecies that occurs within Tabasco.

**Columbigallina minuta** (Linnaeus)

Plain-breasted Ground Dove


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The Plain-breasted Ground Dove is an uncommonly recorded permanent resident in Tabasco. Field identification of this species is complicated by its similarity to the female Ruddy Ground Dove; and, for that reason, it is easily overlooked and may be more common than the data indicate. It prefers forest edges, cultivated fields, and open savanna. I have only two sight observations to supplement the specimen records already listed: one bird at Teapa on 25 May 1961 and two birds at Balancán on 20 May 1961. The April male had enlarged testes, and the December male had slightly enlarged testes.

The Tabascan birds are referable to *C. m. interrupta*.109

Claravis pretiosa (Ferrari-Perez)

Blue Ground Dove

Specimens. LSUMZ. -- 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 29 March 1959 (79.9) DB; ♂, 2 April 1959 (73.5) DB; ♀, 16 April 1959 (76.3) DB. 2 mi. E Teapa, Tacotalpa road: ♀, 4 April 1961 (74.2) EA.

This small dove is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest belt of Tabasco and has been recorded only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. Its preference for good rain forest may be assumed from its greater abundance at Tenosique than elsewhere. It inhabits forest edges and clearings, as well as the depths of the forest, and may be found feeding on the ground or calling from a treetop. W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (in litt.) net banded an individual at Teapa in February 1960. The four specimens of this species that were collected in March and April were in breeding condition.

**Leptotila verreauxi** (Bonaparte)

*White-fronted Dove*


The White-fronted Dove is a very common permanent resident of the State; and, although rather widespread in distribution, it is most abundant in the sections with rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods. This species inhabits the forest floor and is seldom seen until flushed. Occasionally the bird will fly to a nearby tree and allow positive specific identification, but more frequently it flies away, and the record can only be entered as "verreauxi?" or "Leptotila sp." The White-fronted Dove is not as restricted to the forests as are the other two members of the genus; it is often seen at forest edges and in the open country. Near Balancán it is very common in the dry scrubby country scattered with clumps of woods. The White-fronted Dove was found in greatest abundance in the Tenosique, Balancán, and Teapa regions, but I also have records from the vicinities of La Venta, Francisco Rueda, Ocuapan, Chontalpa, and Emiliano Zapata. Both specimens, taken in March, were in breeding condition, the female containing an egg almost ready to be laid.

Tabascan birds are typical of *L. v. fulviventris*.

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**Leptotila plumbeiceps** Sclater and Salvin

*Gray-headed Dove*

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This dove is a permanent resident of the humid rain forest floor. There are few records for this species from the State. However, it can easily be confused with the more common Leptotila verreauxi; and, since an observer rarely receives more than a glimpse of a flushed bird, it is probably often overlooked and is undoubtedly more numerous than records indicate. The species has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Frontera, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. It is essentially a bird of dense rain forest, and I would not expect to find it in an area as badly cut over as the Frontera region is today. The May and February males had greatly enlarged testes, but those of the December male were not enlarged.

Leptotila cassinii (Lawrence)

Cassin’s Dove


Cassin’s Dove is an uncommonly recorded permanent resident of the Tenosique region. West of the eastern section of Tabasco, it has been reported on only two occasions. On 20 February 1961, E. T. Armstrong

collected a specimen at Teapa, and on 23 May 1961, I saw an individual at the same locality. Although Russell (MS) reports that he has "not recorded this species in the heart of rain forest" in British Honduras, I have hardly seen it elsewhere in Tabasco. An individual of this species feeding on the forest floor is very difficult to detect, and usually it is flushed before it is noticed. This difficulty, combined with its similarity to the other doves of the genus Leptotila, is probably responsible for the shortage in records of this bird. In the future it is highly possible that Cassin's Dove will be found to be more common and to possess a more extensive range than is now assumed. The specimens, which were collected during February and November, were not in breeding condition.

L. c. cerviniventris is the race of this species that extends its range into Tabasco.

Geotrygon montana (Linnaeus)

Ruddy Quail-dove


Within Tabasco this species is an uncommon permanent resident of humid rain forest. It has been recorded only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. I have only one record for this dove from the Chontalpa region and but one from Tenosique. The Ruddy Quail-dove may feed singly or in small groups on the forest floor, and it is very difficult for the observer to detect the bird before it flushes. This factor, in combination

with the secretiveness of the bird, may partially account for the scarcity of records. The males collected in March had greatly enlarged testes; however, the female taken in February had an only slightly enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to *G. m. montana*.113

Family PSITTACIDAE

*Ara macao* (Linnaeus)

Scarlet Macaw


The records by Rovirosa (1887: 372) are the only basis, to my knowledge, for the inclusion of this species on the list of Tabascan birds. I have searched and inquired about this species on a number of occasions in the eastern section of the State. The natives around Balancán and Tenosique assured me that the bird still existed in their areas but was much more numerous in Guatemala.

*Aratinga astec* (Souancé)

Aztec Parakeet


This species, the smallest and most abundant of Tabascan parrots, is

a very common permanent resident of the rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods and may be seen throughout the State wherever there are groves of trees. It is usually encountered in noisy flocks of five to thirty birds feeding in the tops of tall trees or flying from one wood to another. Large numbers of this species congregate in the evening at specific roosting localities. One flock roosted every night in the center of Huimanguillo. Aztec Parakeets were seen most consistently and in greatest numbers in the Balancán region, but were also very common at Tenosique and Teapa. Other localities of record unmentioned heretofore are La Venta, Sánchez Magallanes, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Macuspana (R. W. Dickerman, in litt.), and Emiliano Zapata. None of the specimens were in breeding condition.

Tabascan specimens are referable to *A. a. astec*.

**Pionopsitta haematotis** (Sclater and Salvin)

*Brown-hooded Parrot*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 10 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 23 March 1961 (182.4) EA; ♂, 23 March 1961 (189.9) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: ♀, 3 May 1961 (148.7) EA. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 5 November 1961 (158.1) DB.

The presence or absence of the Brown-hooded Parrot in a locality is a good indicator of the quality of forest present. Wherever there is dense, undisturbed rain forest, the species is usually common. I know of its occurrence in only three regions in Tabasco—Chontalpa, Balancán, and Tenosique. At Tenosique and Chontalpa, *Aratinga astec* was the only parrot more abundant than this species; however, in the dry tropical evergreen woods at Balancán *Pionopsitta haematotis* was reported on only two occasions.

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The Brown-hooded Parrot occupies the upper level of the rain forest and is usually very quiet and secretive, its presence being indicated only by an occasional falling fruit. Yet a flock of these birds in flight is capable of an enormous clatter. The two birds collected on 23 March were a breeding pair; and the female contained a well-developed egg. The May and November birds did not possess enlarged gonads.

\[ P. \text{ h. haematotis}^{115} \text{ is the subspecies occurring in Tabasco.} \]

\[ \text{Pionus senilis (Spix)} \]

\[ \text{White-crowned Parrot} \]


In Tabasco the white-crowned Parrot is a rarely recorded permanent resident of the rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods. It is rather secretive and can easily be overlooked when it is feeding in the canopy of the rain forest; hence, it may be more common than suspected. It is usually seen in small flocks flying from one wood to another. Localities of record in addition to those listed above are the vicinities of Chontalpa and Tapijulapa. The specimen obtained 11 miles north of Balancán was collected from a grove of oaks. It had enlarged testes.

The race occurring in Tabasco is \[ P. \text{s. senilis}^{116} \].

\[ \text{Amazona albifrons (Sparrman)} \]

\[ \text{White-fronted Parrot} \]

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116 Psittacus senilis Spix, Av. Bras., 1, 1824: 42 (Veracruz, Mexico).
SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—11 mi. N Villahermosa: ♂, 18 April 1959 (223.6) DB, w.166, t.89. 7 mi. E Teapa, Tacotalpa road: ♀, 8 March 1961 (218.1) DB, w.163, t.88. 8 mi. N Tapijulapa: ♀, 8 March 1961 (209.6) DB, w.163, t.83.


This species, perhaps the most numerous Amazona in Tabasco, is a common permanent resident of forest edges and of open terrain with scattered clumps of trees. It is not often seen at rest or feeding but is usually observed in small bands flying to a favorite feeding or roosting spot. Occasionally a small flock is encountered at rest in the top of a lone tree in the middle of a clearing, but this parrot is very wary and difficult to approach. The White-fronted Parrot is widespread in its distribution within the State. I have personal records from near La Venta, Ocuápan, Frontera, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Jonuta, and Balancán. I found it to be most abundant in the open country north of Balancán, and D. M. Lay reported finding it numerous along the Río Usumacinta near Jonuta. The March female had a greatly enlarged ovary, but the males collected in March and April had only slightly enlarged testes.

The Tabascan birds may possibly exhibit intermediacy between A. a. albifrons and A. a. nana. Their wing measurements conform to those given by Ridgway (1916: 257) for nana, but the tail measurements are greater than the maximum figures given for that race. On the other hand, although the tail measurements fall into the range of those given for albifrons, they are well below the average. These specimens are certainly closer to

117 Psittacus albifrons Sparrmann, Mus. Carls., fasc. 3, 1787: no. 52, pl. 52 (no locality [=southwestern Mexico]).

nana than to albifrons, and I refer them to the former race, although they do not conform in every character.

**Amazona autumnalis** (Linnaeus)

Yellow-cheeked Parrot


This large parrot is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest, dry tropical evergreen woods, and forest edges. It inhabits the tops of the tallest trees in the forest; and, being very wary and secretive, it is not often observed except in flight, when the birds are quite noisy. At Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, the Yellow-cheeked and Yellow-headed Parrots arrived early every morning to feed on the fruit of the tall mango trees. Localities not already mentioned where I have recorded this species are the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tacotalpa. It was found, however, to be much more numerous in the dry tropical evergreen forests north of Balancán than at any other locality. The testes of the two males collected in May were only slightly enlarged.

A. a. autumnalis occurs from eastern Mexico to Honduras.

**Amazona ochrocephala** (Gmelin)

Yellow-headed Parrot


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119 *Psittacus* autumnalis Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 102 (in America [=southern Mexico]).
In general distribution throughout Tabasco this parrot is rare, but locally it is a common permanent resident of large patches of woods surrounded by open marshland or savanna. The birds are usually seen in the early morning or evening, when small groups fly to their feeding or roosting localities. The presence of a flock of Yellow-headed Parrots can be determined at a great distance because of their distinctive call, a scream sounding as if the bird were in utter agony. At Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, E. T. Armstrong and I recorded four Yellow-headed Parrots on each of the two days we were at the locality, 14 and 15 May 1961. Early each morning this small flock would arrive, in company with numbers of Yellow-cheeked Parrots, to feed upon the fruit of the mango trees near camp. D. M. Lay reported Yellow-headed Parrots to have been numerous on 6 April 1960, along the Río Usumacinta near Jonuta, but he stated that they were not as common as the White-fronted Parrots. A year later on 21 April, I saw two birds at this same locality. My only remaining records for this species are the following: 6 and 22 April 1959 south of Frontera; 8 May 1961 at camp 11 miles north of Balancán; and 6 December 1961 in the open marshland 8 miles south of Huimanguillo. The specimen collected by Armstrong in May had slightly enlarged testes.

The race that ranges through Tabasco is *A. o. oratrix*.

_**Amazona farinosa** (Boddaert)_

Blue-crowned Parrot

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ. — 10 mi. S Chontalpa: 9, 16 March 1961 (640.2) DB.

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120. _Amazona oratrix_ Ridgway, Man. N. Amer. Birds, 1837: 587 (Petapa, Oaxaca, Mexico).
This large parrot is an inhabitant of dense, undisturbed rain forest. The bird collected 10 miles south of Chontalpa on 16 March 1961 is the only example from the State. It was collected from the top of a tall tree in a rain forest. For two days thereafter its mate, the male, continued to fly aimlessly about the area calling. There are no other positive records of the occurrence of this species in Tabasco; however, small flocks of large parrots were seen on several occasions flying very high over camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique in November 1961. L. C. Binford and I are in accord in believing that they were probably of this species. The collected female was in breeding condition.

I refer this specimen to *A. f. guatemalae*.

Family CUCULIDAE

*Coccyzus americanus* (Linnaeus)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— Balancán: c, 26 April 1961 (44.3) DB, w.142, t.137, c.27. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 12 November 1961 (40.4) LB, w.138, t.132, c.22. PUBLISHED RECORDS, Brodkorb (1943: 41): Balancán: two, 10 May 1939; Reforma [La Reforma], 22 May 1939.

This North American cuckoo is an uncommon, but regular, migrant through Tabasco. Dates for its occurrence within the State extend during spring migration from 15 April to 22 May and during fall migration from 1 to 12 November. There are only three sight records for this species to supplement the records listed above: J. K. McDonald and I saw an individual in the dense brush near the Río Puyacatengo at Teapa on 15 April 1959; I observed one in an oak grove at Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, on 15 May

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121 *Chrysotis guatemalae* Sclater, Ibis, 1860: 44 (Guatemala and Honduras).
1961; and L. C. Binford and I saw another in a tree in the village square at Tenosique on 1 November 1961. Within Tabasco this species has usually been found in rather open brushy countryside, seemingly avoiding the dense rain forest. The testes of the April male were slightly enlarged, but the ovary of the November female was not enlarged.

The male from Balancán is easily referable to *C. a. americanus*, but the female from Tenosique is smaller in wing, tail, and culmen measurements than the minimum figures given by Ridgway (1916: 13) for that race. The bird also has a buffy cast to the under parts, and the white patches on the tail are not as distinct as in typical specimens. Since these characters do not fit those given for any race of this species, I consider the specimen to be merely an aberrant individual of the race *americanus*. Brodkorb (1943: 41) allocates his Balancán birds to *americanus*, but assigns his La Reforma bird to the larger western race *C. a. occidentalis*.

**Coccyzus minor** (Gmelin)

*Mangrove Cuckoo*


There are few records from Tabasco for this resident of the coastal scrub and mangroves. The only specimen in addition to the one that I obtained at La Venta is a bird collected by R. W. Dickerman at Cantemé on 9 May 1955 (University of Kansas collection). On 12 December 1961, an

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122[Cocculus] americanus Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 111 (in Carolina [=South Carolina]).

123[Coccyzus] americanus occidentalis Ridgway, Man. N. Amer. Birds, 1887: 273 (Western United States [=Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona]).
individual of this species was seen in the brush bordering the road 1 mile south of Campo Magallanes. Later that day a pair was observed in the mangroves at Sanchez Magallanes; and, on 17 December 1961, two more birds were noted in the mangroves 3 miles east of Sanchez Magallanes. I have spent a relatively short period of time in the scrubby mangroves along the Tabascan coast, but I feel that the bird is probably, in that habitat, a common permanent resident. It is apparently, however, restricted to the coastal section. The specimen from La Venta had slightly enlarged testes.

The race C. m. continentalis\textsuperscript{124} ranges through Tabasco.

\textit{Piaya cayana} (Linnaeus)

\textbf{Squirrel Cuckoo}


The Squirrel Cuckoo is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco and can also on occasion be seen in scattered trees in the coastal region. It inhabits the middle to upper levels of the forest, and, being rather secretive (slinking about the treetops in the manner of a squirrel), is easily overlooked. In any area that it occupies, its call note is a better guide to its abundance than are sight observations. In addition to the localities listed above, I have recorded the Squirrel Cuckoo from the Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Balancán, 

and Tenosique regions. It was, however, found with greater regularity and in greater abundance in the Tenosique vicinity than elsewhere. The March male and the two females had slightly enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds belong to the race *P. c. thermophila*. 125

**Crotophaga sulcirostris** Swainson

**Groove-billed Ani**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 26 February 1959 (67.4) DB; ♂, 14 April 1959 (81.1) DB; ♀, 5 May 1959 (71.7) DB; ♂, 22 February 1961 (74.5) DB; ♀, 25 February 1961 (64.0) EA. Balancán: ♀, 29 April 1961 (72.6) DB.


The Groove-billed Ani is an abundant permanent resident throughout Tabasco and is one of the most numerous and widespread of all birds inhabiting the State. Small flocks may be encountered in almost any type of habitat, but the anis prefer clearings at the forest edge, open marshland, thickets, and pastures. In general they avoid the dense rain forest, but I have on occasion seen them in this type of habitat also. They are often seen in association with cattle herds, and I have occasionally observed individuals feeding upon engorged ticks obtained from the backs of these animals. The female collected in May is the only specimen that had an enlarged gonad.

The nominate race, *C. s. sulcirostris* 126 ranges through Tabasco.

**Tapera naevia** (Linnaeus)

**Striped Cuckoo**


126 *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Swainson, Philos. Mag., 1, 1827: 440 (Temascaltepec, Mexico).

This uncommon cuckoo is a resident of the open brush and thickets growing in either marshland or relatively dry terrain. It is more often heard than seen; but, when it is seen, it is usually observed, uttering its distinctive call from the top of a small thicket or utility wire. The call of the Striped Cuckoo is a double-noted whistle (the second note higher) and is very loud and piercing. Of my fourteen records for this cuckoo, nine are based on the call alone. In addition to the specimen localities already mentioned, I have observed the species at the following locations: 10 miles south of Chontalpa; 17 miles north of Villahermosa; 12 miles south of Villahermosa; the juncture of the Rios Grijalva and Usumacinta; 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex; and Emiliano Zapata. Although I assume this species to be a permanent resident, I have never found it during the winter months. The probable reason, however, is the silence of the bird at that time of the year. The female collected in April had a greatly enlarged ovary, and the two males collected in March had enlarged testes but the male collected in May had only slightly enlarged testes.

The Tabascan birds are referable to *T. n. excellens*.127

Family TYTONIDAE

*Tyto alba* (Scopoli)

Barn Owl

There are few records for the occurrence of this owl in Tabasco, although it is probably more numerous than realized. In addition to the specimen records cited above, there are two sight observations. E. T. Armstrong and I saw an individual flying over the swamp southeast of Mira-mar shortly after sunset on 3 March 1961. On 27 October 1961, a Barn Owl was flushed from a cave 2 miles east of Teapa along the Tacotalpa road. I assume that the species is a permanent resident in Tabasco. The female collected in April had a greatly enlarged ovary, and the male collected in February had slightly enlarged testes.

The subspecies occurring in Tabasco is T. a. pratincola.128

Family STRIGIDAE

Lophostrix cristata (Daudin)

Crested Owl

The two specimens cited above constitute the only records for this species from the State. On 23 March 1961, during the daylight hours, this pair was seen sitting together about 20 feet above the ground in the dense rain forest 10 miles south of Chontalpa. Both birds were in breeding condition, and the female contained ovarian eggs.

128 Strix Pratincola Bonaparte, Geogr. and Comp. List, 1838: 7 (no locality [=Pennsylvania]).
The Tabascan birds are referable to *L. c. stricklandi*.129

[ *Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin) ]

**Great Horned Owl**

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Rovirosa (1887: 375): Macuspana to Gulf of Mexico.

Although Rovirosa (1887: 375) states that this species occurs from Macuspana to the Gulf of Mexico, Friedmann et al. (1950: 143) do not include Tabasco within its range. Rovirosa is possibly in error, and this species should not be included on the list of birds occurring in Tabasco on the basis of this record alone.

Brodkorb (1943: 42) lists Rovirosa’s record under the race *B. v. mayensis*.130

**Glaucidium minutissimum** (Wied)

**Least Pygmy Owl**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 8 mi. SW Ocuapan: d, 10 December 1961 (51.1) DB, w. 88.5, t. 53. 7 mi. S Chontalpa: d, 7 December 1961 (49.3) LB, w. 89, t. 50.

Within Tabasco the only known records for the Least Pygmy Owl are the two specimens cited above and a bird captured in a mist net and banded by W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (in litt.) at Teapa in February 1960. The bird from 7 miles south of Chontalpa was taken in rain forest, and the individual from 8 miles southwest of Ocuapan (two birds were observed) was collected in a small grove of tall trees at the edge of the savanna. Both


birds were attracted, during the daylight hours, by an imitation of their call, which is similar to that of *Glaucidium brasilianum*, but clearer in tone with the notes in series of three to five rather than continuously. The testes of neither specimen were enlarged.

L. C. Binford collected, on 24 November 1961, a specimen of this species in the cloud forest 15 miles southwest of Valle Nacional, Oaxaca, at 4100 feet elevation. In appearance and measurements (w.35, t.50), this bird is almost identical to the Tabascan birds. Moore (1947: 144) named the race *G. m. occultum* on the basis of two specimens, one from Moctum (Mt. Zempoaltepec), Oaxaca, and the other from Palenque, Chiapas. Geographically, Binford's bird from Oaxaca and my Tabascan birds should belong to this race. I have compared them with Moore's specimens, and they are, however, quite distinct and differ from those specimens in the following characteristics: the back is chocolate brown rather than reddish brown; the pale bars of the tail are smaller and are white rather than buffy; the crown is of an earth brown (approaching gray) rather than reddish brown and is almost devoid of spots, except at the periphery; the brownish streaks of the under parts are darker and less reddish than *occultum*; and the thighs are darker, almost russet, rather than buffy. There is, however, no appreciable difference in measurements. My specimens, in some respects, demonstrate intermediacy between *G. m. sanchezi* of San Luis Potosí and *G. m. griseiceps* of Guatemala and Honduras. They differ

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133 *Glaucidium griseiceps* Sharpe, Ibis, 1875: 41, pl. 2 (Guatemala).
from *sanchezi* in possessing a shorter tail with three pale bars rather than four to five, a chocolate brown rather than earth brown or reddish brown back, and darker brown rather than reddish brown ventral streaks. My specimens differ from *griseiceps* in lacking the spotting on the crown and in possessing an earth brown (approaching gray) rather than a distinct gray crown. A few specimens of *griseiceps* possess the chocolate brown back that is a distinctive feature of Binford's Oaxacan bird and my Tabascan birds. We obviously do not possess enough material to make any definite decisions at this time. The above discussion was based on the examination of five specimens of the race *sanchezi* from San Luis Potosí, two specimens of *occultum* from Caxaca and Chiapas, and five specimens of *griseiceps* from Honduras.

**Glaucidium brasilianum** (Gmelin)

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl


This little owl is a very common permanent resident throughout the State wherever there are small stands of trees. It may be seen both during the daytime and at night, often sitting at the top of a utility pole or on one of its crossbars. Its call, an indefinitely long series of whistled notes, is a familiar sound at dusk and later during the night. An imitation of the call of this species is very effective in attracting small passerine birds. This fact may be indicative of the abundance of this little owl. I have records for this species from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán,
and Tenosique. The University of Kansas has two skeletons obtained by R. W. Dickerman on 12 May 1955, 6 miles southeast of Tulipán. The March female had ovarian eggs, and the two males, collected in March and May, had enlarged testes.

I refer Tabascan birds to *G. b. ridgwayi*.\(^{134}\)

**Speotyto cunicularia** (Molina)

**Burrowing Owl**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 2 mi. SW Ocuapan: 9, 9 December 1961 (127.9) DB.

There are only two records for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco. The specimen cited above was flushed from the road 2 miles southwest of Ocuapán in the open savanna on the evening of 9 December 1961. The bird flew a short distance and landed on a small snag, from which it was collected. On the following night another Burrowing Owl was seen by L. C. Binford and myself 14 miles northeast of Francisco Rueda. The ovary of the collected specimen was not enlarged.

The race to which I refer this bird is *S. c. hypogaea*.\(^{135}\)

**Ciccaba virgata** (Cassin)

**Mottled Wood Owl**


The Mottled Wood Owl is a common permanent resident of the rain forest

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\(^{134}\) *Glaucidium ridgwayi* Sharpe, Ibis, 1875: 55 (Central America [=Mexico]).

\(^{135}\) *Strix hypogaea* Bonaparte, Amer. Ornith., 1, 1825: 72, pl. 7 (western United States [=plains of the Platte River]).
belt. Being nocturnal, this species is not often seen; but, once the call is learned, its true abundance is better appreciated. Occasionally an individual will be flushed from its roost during the day. The Mottled Wood Owl is rather inquisitive, and on one occasion an individual entered the building in which my companion and I were living. There are records for this species from the Ocuápan, Cárdenas (R. W. Dickerman, in litt.), Chontalpa, Teapa, Macuspana, and Tenosique regions. The male collected in February had greatly enlarged testes, but the females collected in March and May had only slightly enlarged ovaries.

Brodkorb (1943: 43) states that the Tenosique specimen "has a plain white crissum and light-colored, unbarred feet." He feels that it is intermediate toward C. v. eatoni\(^{136}\) of Campeche; however, most authorities today consider eatoni to be merely a light phase of C. v. centralis.\(^{137}\) I thus refer all Tabascan specimens to centralis.

**Family NYCTIBIIDAE**

**Nyctibius griseus** (Gmelin)

*Common Potoo*

SPECPMENS. LSUMZ.— 10 mi. N Teapa: 9, 22 February 1960 (276.7) DL. 9
mi. N Teapa: 9, 22 February 1960 (251.5) DL. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Hartert
(1892: 625): Teapa, February. Ridgway (1914: 592): Teapa. Salvin and

This uncommon permanent resident is a nocturnal inhabitant of the open
marshland and savanna where there are upright snags or fence posts to provide

\(^{136}\)Ciccaba virgata eatoni Kelso and Kelso, Auk, 53, 1936: 215
(Apazote, Campeche, Mexico).

\(^{137}\)Ciccaba virgata centralis Griscom, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 69,
1929: 159 (Chivela, Oaxaca, Mexico).
perches. Typically this species is found sitting in an upright position at the top of such a post or snag and usually appears to be a mere continuation of its perch. At night, however, it is easily located at long distances because of the great amount of light reflected by its eyes. It is easily blinded by a flashlight beam, and L. C. Binford was able to capture an individual by applying this principle. Upon seizure the potoo emits a "blood-curdling" scream, which, combined with the size of its gape, is usually sufficient to frighten the captor into releasing its victim. In flight this species resembles a hawk, but at rest it is more reminiscent of an owl. The Common Potoo appears to be rather sporadic in its distribution. On 22 February 1960, D. M. Lay saw three of these birds near Huastecas, 9 to 10 miles north of Teapa. I have visited this same area on a number of occasions specifically in search of this species but have never found it there. On 9, 10, and 11 December 1961, however, in the open savanna and marshland near Huimanguillo and Ocúpan, L. C. Binford and I found it to be common. The University of Kansas has a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman at Macuspana on 3 May 1955. I know of no other localities within the State where this bird occurs. The female collected 9 miles north of Teapa had a slightly enlarged ovary, but that of the the other specimen was not enlarged.

The race extending its range into Tabasco is *N. g. mexicanus*.¹³⁸

¹³⁸ *Nyctibius jamaicensis mexicanus* Nelson, Auk, 17, 1900: 260 (Metlaltjoyuca, Puebla, Mexico).
Family CAPRIMULGIDAE

Chordeiles acutipennis (Hermann)

Lesser Nighthawk


There are records for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco for dates ranging from 15 January to 15 May, but it is probably present in the State through the summer months also. I have never personally observed it during the winter months, but the University of Kansas has a specimen collected by W. W. Dalquest at Frontera on 15 January 1947. The Lesser Nighthawk is common locally at least at times, and there are records from near Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jonuta, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. Because of the difficulty in field differentiation, it is always conceivable that some of the birds seen may have been Chordeiles minor, particularly the individuals in flight high overhead. Chordeiles acutipennis is usually encountered at dusk flying low over bodies of water. D. M. Lay saw flocks of fifteen to thirty feeding at dusk over the Río Usumacinta at Balancán during April 1960. During the daylight this species is occasionally found roosting on exposed horizontal limbs of trees. The April males had slightly enlarged gonads.

The two males from Tabasco are clearly referable to C. a. micromeris,¹³⁹ the breeding race in southern Mexico. The female, however, has wing and tail measurements that are greater than the upper extreme given by Ridgway.

¹³⁹Chordeiles acutipennis micromeris Oberholser, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 86, 1914: 100 (Xbac, Yucatán, Mexico).
(1914: 577) for that race, but are also slightly below the average measurements for C. a. texensis. This bird agrees with texensis by being very light in coloration. I, therefore, refer it to that race. Examples of texensis in Tabasco would be merely migrants.

**Nyctidromus albicollis** (Gmelin)

**Pauraque**


The Pauraque is an abundant permanent resident throughout the State, especially in the open marshland or clearings bordering the forest. At dusk this species often congregates in numbers along the roadsides and trails, from where it is frequently flushed. Being crepuscular and nocturnal in habits, it is not often observed during the daylight hours, although an individual is occasionally flushed from the forest floor in daytime. The call of this bird is well known and may be heard every evening during the spring months (especially March through May) and occasionally during other times of the year. The specimens, collected from 11 March to 7 May, were all in breeding condition.

Tabascan birds are referable to *N. a. yucatanensis*. The female collected 13 miles north of Teapa, however, is much smaller than the other specimens and agrees in measurements with those given by Ridgway (1914: 539) for *N. a. albicollis*, the Central American race. The specimen is probably, however, merely an aberrant member of the race *yucatanensis*, as it does not appear to differ in any other respect. The type locality of the race *N. a. sumichrasti* was originally given by Ridgway (1912: 91) as Teapa, but he later corrected his error and cited the locality as Frontera (Ridgway, 1914: 544). This form is, however, no longer considered to be valid.

Caprimulgus carolinensis Gmelin

*Chuck-will's-widow*

Specimens. LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Villahermosa: 9, skeleton, 26 October 1961 (no wt.) MB. 8 mi. E Teapa, Tacotalpa road: 9, 29 March 1959 (111.9) DB.

On 29 March 1959, 8 miles east of Teapa, a native guide shot the first specimen of this species for the State. On 1 April 1961, 7 miles south of Chontalpa, E. T. Armstrong and I flushed a caprimulgid that was almost certainly of this species. Later, on 26 October 1961, L. C. Binford, F. M. Berrett, and I found a carcass of this species on the highway 7 miles south of Villahermosa. Although records are scarce, the Chuck-will's-widow is probably a regular migrant through Tabasco. The collected specimens had slightly enlarged ovaries.


Caprimulgus vociferus Wilson

Whip-poor-will


The record by Rovirosa is, to my knowledge, the only report of this North American species from Tabasco.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 156) cite this record under the nominate race C. v. vociferus.144

* Caprimulgus maculicaudus (Lawrence)

Spot-tailed Nightjar

L. I. Davis (in litt.) informs me that he has heard this species on the open savanna of western Tabasco.

Family APCIDAE

Streptoprocne zonaris (Shaw)

White-collared Swift

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 12 mi. S Villahermosa: d, 3 April 1959 (111.6) DB.


This common permanent resident is the most abundant of Tabascan swifts. It is usually seen in flocks, ranging up to two hundred in number, circling high overhead. At Teapa this species is often seen high over the forest-covered foothills in the late evening. Occasionally the white-collared Swift will feed low, particularly on overcast days. On 3 April 1959, 12 miles south of Villahermosa, a flock of approximately two hundred individuals

144 Caprimulgus vociferus Wilson, Amer. Ornith., 5, 1812: 71, pl. 41 (Pennsylvania [=Philadelphia, Pennsylvania]).
was observed flying back and forth across the highway, often within a few feet of the road. White-collared Swifts are usually seen in the early morning or late evening, but on overcast days they may feed at almost any hour. This species appears to be more common as one approaches the Chiapas mountains, but it may be expected at almost any locality within the State. There are records from near La Venta, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Macuspana, Balancán (one individual), and Tenosique. The collected specimen had slightly enlarged testes.

The subspecies that occurs in Tabasco is *S. g. mexicana*.¹⁴⁵

*Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus)

**Chimney Swift**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 23 March 1959 (22.6) DL.

The Chimney Swift is probably a regular migrant through Tabasco, but the only specimen of this species taken within the State is the individual cited above, collected by D. M. Lay at Teapa on 23 March 1959. On 16 April 1961 at the same locality, L. C. Binford observed a flock of approximately sixty individuals; and, after hearing them call, he was able to identify them to species. Although swifts of the genus *Chaetura* are common locally and periodically within the State, to identify them specifically in the field or to collect one is not an easy task. Flocks of *Chaetura* have been noted near Teapa (23 March to 16 April), Tenosique (5 to 14 November), and the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo (a flock of twenty-five on 6 March 1961). The dates indicate that these flocks were probably migrating

birds. It is highly probable that some of these birds were *C. vauxi*, and it is also feasible that some could have been *C. rutila*. The specimen collected by Lay had a slightly enlarged ovary.

* Panyptila cayennensis (Gmelin)  
Swallow-tailed Swift

There are only two records, both sight observations, for this rare swift from Tabasco. On 22 May 1961, S. T. Armstrong and I saw an individual of this species along the road between Balancán and Triunfo. The bird flew past us two or three times within a distance of thirty to fifty feet and afforded us an excellent view. Near camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique on 14 November 1961, L. C. Binford observed two Swallow-tailed Swifts in flight high overhead.

Family TROCHILIDAE

Phaethornis superciliosus (Linnaeus)  
Long-tailed Hermit


This hummingbird is a common permanent resident of the understory of humid rain forest. I have records for this species from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions, but only in the vicinity of Teapa does it approach in abundance its near relative *P. longuemareus*. There are no records of the Long-tailed Hermit from the marshy coastal section nor the
dry savanna near Balancán. In habits this species is very similar to its smaller relative. Neither of the specimens was in breeding condition.

P. s. veraecru$\text{c} \text{i}\text{s}\text{s}$\text{146}$ differs from P. s. longirostris$\text{147}$ in the possession of pure white (or merely tinged with buff) tips to the lateral rectrices rather than creamy buff tips. The race veraecru$\text{c} \text{i}\text{s}$ extends from Veracruz into western Tabasco, and birds as far east as Teapa are quite typical of this form. Brodkorb (1943: 44) assigned the La Palma specimen to longirostris. The two races apparently intergrade in the vicinity of Palenque, Chiapas (Friedmann et al. 1950: 161).

_Phaethornis longuemareus_ (Lesson)

_Phaethornis longuemareus_ (Lesson)

**Phaethornis longuemareus** (Lesson)

_Little Hermit_

**Little Hermit**


This very common permanent resident is one of the more abundant hummingbirds of the understory of the humid rain forest of the State. It is also occasionally found in the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán. Although Ridgway (1911: 325) reports a specimen from Frontera, I have never recorded this species from the coastal district. I found it most numerous in the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. At my camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, it was the most abundant member of its family and the only hummingbird reported every day. The Little Hermit is a very inquisitive

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147_Crinisyma longirostris_ DeLattre, Écho du Monde Savant, 1843: no. 45, col. 1070 (Guatemala).
and fearless creature and will often fly up to within inches of an observer's face, remain suspended in the air momentarily, and then dart away. Along with *Phaethornis superciliosus*, it was often observed at water holes in the rain forest. The bird would dive into the water, fly to a nearby twig to fan its wings, and then return to the water. The wings of this species produce a characteristic sound, and the bird is usually heard before it is seen. On 21 February 1961 at Teapa, I observed an individual singing on a twig near the ground. The song was so high-pitched and such a feeble effort that it was difficult to discern.

*P. l. adolphi*\(^{148}\) occurs in Tabasco.

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**Campylopterus hemileucus** (Deppe)

Violet Sabrewing


On 20 March 1959 at Teapa, D. M. Lay captured a female of this species in a mist net at the rain forest edge. The only sight record supplementing the specimen records listed above is the observation of a female by L. C. Binford in the rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa on 25 October 1961. The specimen captured by Lay was not in breeding condition.

I refer Tabascan birds to *C. h. hemileucus*.\(^{149}\)

**Florisuga mellivora** (Linnaeus)

White-necked Jacobin

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\(^{148}\) *Phaethornis adolphi* Gould, Monog. Trochilidae, 1, 1857: pl. 35 (Córdova, Veracruz, Mexico).

\(^{149}\) *Trochilus hemileucus* Deppe, Preis-Verz. Säug.-Vögel., Mexico, 1830: 1, no. 33 (Mexico).
SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♂, 14 April 1961 (7.0) DB.

The specimen listed above, shot by L. C. Binford, is the only record for this species from Tabasco. It was obtained from the understory of dense, humid rain forest. The testes of this specimen were slightly enlarged.

F. m. mellivora occurs from southern Mexico to Bolivia and Brazil.

Anthracothorax prevostii (Lesson)

Green-breasted Mango


In general distribution throughout the State, the Green-breasted Mango is uncommon and sporadic; but, during my visit near Balancan, the only hummingbirds exceeding this species in abundance were Amazilia candida and Amazilia tzacatl. The Green-breasted Mango was usually seen in the open hovering near flowering trees, but on occasion an individual would be observed in a dense patch of woods. At other localities also, this hummingbird exhibited a preference for open country with small, scattered patches of brush and woods and was most obvious while feeding upon flowering trees and bushes. In addition to the specimen localities, this species has been seen near Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Cuidad Pemex. I have never encountered the Green-breasted Mango in Tabasco during the fall or winter months; but, since the bird is uncommon, this evidence cannot be construed as definite proof that this species does not winter in the State. The Tabascan specimens had slightly enlarged gonads.

150[Trochilus] mellivorus Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 121 (in Indiis [=Surinam]).

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The race occurring within the State is *A. p. prevostii*.\(^{151}\)

**Chlorostilbon canivetii** (Lesson)

**Fork-tailed Emerald**

*SPECIMENS.* LSUMZ.— 11 mi. N Balancán: ♂, 3 May 1961 (2.4) DB; ♀, 9 May 1961 (2.0) DB.

This species is known only from three general localities in the State: Balancán; Ocuapan; and Chontalpa. On 1 April 1961, I saw a male Fork-tailed Emerald flying about low roadside brush at the rain forest edge 7 miles south of Chontalpa. On 8, 9, and 11 December 1961, individuals were noted in the open savanna southwest of Ocuapan. I have seen this species with regularity only in the open savanna north of Balancán, where it is a common permanent resident. It prefers open country and is most frequently observed while feeding at low, flowering shrubs. It is occasionally, however, encountered in the woods, for the female cited above was collected in a dense dry tropical evergreen forest. The specimens did not possess enlarged gonads.

The race of this species that ranges through the State is *C. c. canivetii*.\(^{152}\)

**Hylocharis eliciae** (Bourcier and Nulsant)

**Blue-throated Goldentail**

*SPECIMENS.* LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 1 April 1961 (3.8) DB; ♂, 14 April 1961 (3.8) DB.

\(^{151}\) Trochilus prevostii Lesson, Hist. Nat. Colibris, Suppl. Ois.-Kouch., 1832: 87, pl. 24 (South America).

\(^{152}\) Ornithomya canivetii Lesson, Hist. Nat. Colibris, Suppl. Ois.-Kouch., 1832: 174, pl. 37, 38 (Brazil [=Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico]).
The Blue-throated Goldentail is known from but one locality in the
State, 7 miles south of Chontalpa. Here I collected the first specimen for
Tabasco on 1 April 1961. Later, on 14 April 1961, five individuals were
seen by E. T. Armstrong, L. C. Binford, L. L. Wolf, and myself in the dense
understory of humid rain forest; one of these birds was also collected.
On that day the Blue-throated Goldentail and Anthracothorax prevostii were
the most common hummingbirds at that particular locality. Although I re­
turned to the area several times during the following fall and winter months,
the species was not seen again. Neither of the specimens had enlarged
gonads.

Amazilia candida (Bourcier and Kulsant)
White-bellied Emerald

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 10 March 1959 (4.4) DB; c, 25 March
1959 (3.3) DB; 9, 26 March 1959 (3.0) DB; c, 20 February 1961 (3.7) EA.
PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 45): Balancán, three, 11-17 May 1939;

This permanent resident, with the possible exception of Amazilia
tzacatl, is the most common hummingbird in Tabasco. The White-bellied
Emerald is typically a bird of the rain forest belt; but, although it is
most numerous there, it may be encountered occasionally in almost any
wooded area throughout the State. According to my records of the birds
within the three rain forest regions, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique,
this species was more abundant than Amazilia tzacatl only at Chontalpa.
In the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán, the two species were
equal in abundance. I have records for Amazilia candida from two coastal
localities, Río San Pedro y San Pablo and Sanchez Magallanes, where it
was seen in flowering brush at the edge of the mangroves. In the rain
forest belt, the White-bellied Emerald may be found in the dense woods or
at its edge. It is common in the fairly open groves of cacao, coffee, and rubber that are located at the margin of the forest. On 30 March 1961, I found a nest of this species in dense rain forest 10 miles south of Chontalpa. It was located on a horizontal limb, 12 to 15 feet above the ground. The March males had enlarged testes, but the female had only a slightly enlarged ovary.

A. c. candida\(^{153}\) is the subspecies occurring in Tabasco.

**Amazilia cyanocephala** (Lesson)

Red-billed Azurecrown

*SPECIMEN.* LSUMZ.— Pato, 9 mi. N Balancan: c, 14 May 1961 (5.4) DE.

The Red-billed Azurecrown is known from but one locality in the State, Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán. On 14 May 1961 in one dense patch of shrubs at the edge of the dry savanna, I counted seven individuals of this species. The shrubs were in bloom, and several species of hummingbirds were present, but this form was the most numerous. I did not return to this specific locality and never saw the species elsewhere. The testes of the collected specimen were only slightly enlarged.

I refer the specimen to *A. c. cyanocephala.\(^{154}\)

**Amazilia yucatanensis** (Cabot)

Buff-bellied Hummingbird


\(^{154}\) *Ornismya cyanocephalus* Lesson, Hist. Nat. Gis.-Mouch., 1829: 45 (Brazil [=Veracruz, Mexico]).
Within Tabasco this species is a common inhabitant of open country in contrast to the preference of *Amazilia tzacatl* for the forest. Within the open savanna near Balancán, Emiliano Zapata, and Ocuápan, it was one of the most numerous hummingbirds. Near the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo and at Sanchez Magallanes, in the coastal scrub bordering the mangroves, the Buff-bellied Hummingbird was found to be the most plentiful member of its family. It may also be seen in the brushy areas on the fringes of the open marshland near such localities as La Venta, Huimanguillo, Villahermosa, or Ciudad Pemex. It is usually observed feeding about flowering shrubs in the open, but on occasion it may be seen at the forest edge. At Balancán it was sometimes encountered in the oak groves. The December male had larger gonads than the two March birds.

Friedmann et al. (1950: 172) state that *A. y. cerviniventris* \(^{155}\) occurs from Puebla and Veracruz southward to Campeche (no previous record for Tabasco) and that *A. y. yucatanensis* \(^{156}\) occupies the Yucatan Peninsula. The two specimens collected in March at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo are referable to *cerviniventris*; however, the December bird from Huimanguillo is of the race *yucatanensis*. Concerning the Villahermosa specimen, Paynter (1955: 149) states that it was "probably merely a migrant there and *A. y. cerviniventris* will be found to be the resident form." I agree


with Paynter and feel that my December specimen, along with Ridgway's bird, was probably a stray and that the resident form throughout the State is *cerviniventris*. In addition, *yucatanensis* possesses a distinct chestnut-colored abdomen, whereas that of *cerviniventris* is buff-colored. I collected my specimen of *yucatanensis* because of its distinct coloration, a condition that I had not noticed on any previous bird. It is odd, however, that the December bird had larger gonads than the other two specimens.

**Amazilia tzacatl** (De la Llave)

Rieffer's Hummingbird


This very common permanent resident, which competes with *Amazilia candida* for the distinction of being the most abundant hummingbird in Tabasco, is typically an inhabitant of the rain forest belt and dense dry tropical evergreen woods, although it may occasionally be seen in almost any wooded area. It is particularly numerous in the rain forest areas of Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. It may be encountered in the dense forest or at its edge, and it is common in the groves of cacao, coffee, and rubber trees. Ridgway (1911: 409) records this species from near the coast at Frontera, and I have seen the bird at Sanchez Magallanes and 5 miles north of Campo Magallanes. Although Russell (MS.) and Paynter (1955: 150) report it as breeding in January and February, my specimens for February and early March did not have distinguishable gonads. The April male, however, had enlarged testes, and the 21 March female had a slightly enlarged ovary.
Tabascan birds are referable to *A. t. tzacatl*.

*Lampornis clemenciae* (Lesson)

Blue-throated Hummingbird

In February 1960 at Teapa, W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (in litt.) captured a specimen of this species in a mist net. The bird was banded and released. Their report is the only record for this hummingbird from Tabasco.

*Heliothryx barroti* (Bourcier and Mulsant)

Barrot's Fairy

SPECIMEN: LSUMZ.—8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 4 November 1961 (5.1) DB; c, 6 November 1961 (5.6) LB.

The first specimen of this species for Tabasco was collected on 4 November 1961 near my camp 3 miles southeast of Tenosique. This bird suddenly appeared before me, hovered momentarily in front of my face after the manner of a hermit, and then darted away. It later returned and was collected. L. C. Binford and I saw an individual on 5 November, four individuals on 6 November, and one each on 12 and 13 November 1961. The birds were observed in the understory of dense rain forest or at its edge. On 6 November 1961, Binford noted an individual bathing in a small stream in the forest. The tail of the female is strikingly long and forked, whereas that of the male is wedge-shaped. The male had enlarged testes, but the ovary of the female was not enlarged. The foregoing records are the first for the occurrence of this Central American species in Mexico.

Heliomaster longirostris (Audebert and Vieillot)
Long-billed Starthroat


The specimen cited above, collected on 15 June 1939 at Tenosique, is the only record for this species from the State.

Brodkorb (1943: 173) allocates this specimen to *H. l. pallidiceps*.

Archilochis colubris (Linnaeus)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Published Record. Ridgway (1911: 630): Frontera.

The specimen cited above is the only definite record for this North American migrant from the State. On 17 April 1961, 12 miles south of Villahermosa, L. C. Binford, L. L. Wolf, and I observed a hummingbird that was probably of this species. It was seen in low, scattered brush. This species could easily be overlooked and may be more regular in occurrence in Tabasco during the winter months than records indicate.

Family Trogonidae

Trogon massena Gould

Massena Trogon

Specimens. LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: 2, 15 March 1959 (167.5) DL; 6, 15 March 1959 (170.9) DB. Published Records. Brodkorb (1943: 47): Reforma [La Reforma], 22 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], 25 May 1939; La Palma, 1 June 1939; San Isidro, three, 8-10 June 1939; Tenosique, two, 15-28 June 1939; Santo Tomás, 23 June 1939. Ogilvie-Grant (1892: 475): Teapa, 1861: 139 (Mexico and Guatemala [=Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico]).

The Massena Trogon is a permanent resident of dense rain forest. That it prefers dense, undisturbed rain forest is indicated by its greater abundance in the Tenosique region than elsewhere in the State. At Tenosique this species was recorded on eight out of fourteen days of field work, while at Teapa, during approximately five months, it was seen on only four occasions. I have not encountered this bird elsewhere in Tabasco. Weber (1945: 191) found it at La Venta but indicated that it was not so common as Trogon melanocephala. My failure to find Massena Trogons at La Venta in March 1961 is probably due to the disappearance of the rain forest since Weber's visit in the spring of 1943. Wherever this species is found, it is usually quite obvious and conspicuous, and it is often seen feeding on fruits at the edge of a clearing. It ranges in the forest from the mid to upper levels. The specimens collected in March had slightly enlarged gonads.

The nominate race T. m. massena occurs in Tabasco.

Trogon melanocephala Gould

Black-headed Trogon

159 Trogon massena Gould, Monog. Trogonidae, 3, 1839: pl. 16 (Mexico).

160 I cannot agree that this species is best considered a race of T. citreolus. The union of these two allopatric populations certainly illustrates well their close relationship; but, on the other hand, it tends to obliterate their obvious dissimilarities. T. melanocephala differs from T. citreolus in possessing the following characteristics: less white in tail (producing different tail pattern); black head in male rather than gray; bright yellow rather than light yellow under parts; bright blue rump rather than green rump concolor with back; and dark brown rather than bright yellow iris. In addition, the habitats of the two forms are different.
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This species is a very common permanent resident throughout Tabasco and is the most numerous member of its family inhabiting the State. *Trogon melanoccephala* superficially resembles *Trogon violaceus* and can easily be confused with it; but, whereas the latter species is virtually restricted to rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods, the Black-headed Trogon may be found in a multitude of habitats. It is common at the forest margin and in areas devoted to the cultivation of cacao, coffee, and rubber, but is most numerous in dry brush, dry tropical evergreen woods, and oak groves, such as occur near Balancán. On 6 March 1961, E. T. Armstrong recorded one of these trogons in a mangrove swamp near the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo. The species may also be seen in the rain forest, although it appears to avoid the denser sections. The bird collected on 24 March had a slightly enlarged ovary. On 28 April at Balancán, a pair was observed in copulation.

*T. m. melanoccephala*\(^{161}\) occurs through eastern Mexico to Costa Rica.

**Trogon collaris** Vieillot

**Collared Trogon**


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\(^{161}\) *Trogon melanoccephala* Gould, Monog. Trogonidae, 1835: pl. 6 (Tamaulipas, México).

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This rarest of Tabascan trogons, is an uncommon permanent resident of the middle level of dense, undisturbed rain forest. To date, the Collared Trogon has been observed only in the denser forests of the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. Since the rain forest of the Tenosique region is the least disturbed of the forested sections of the State, this species, as would be expected, is more common there than elsewhere. I have only a few sight observations to supplement the specimen records: near camp 10 miles south of Chontalpa, E. T. Armstrong saw two birds on 23 March 1961; 7 miles south of Chontalpa, L. L. Wolf observed two individuals on 14 April 1961; 8 miles south of Chontalpa, I saw an individual on 5 December 1961; and 3 miles southeast of Tenosique, I recorded one bird per day on 3, 6, 8, and 14 November 1961. The specimen collected on 18 March had enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to T. c. puella.162

**Trogon violaceus** Cmelin

Violaceous Trogon


The Violaceous Trogon is a common permanent resident of rain forest and tall dry tropical evergreen woods, but on occasion may be seen elsewhere. On 6 March 1961, for example, I saw and heard an individual in a mangrove swamp near the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo and one

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bird was observed in an oak grove at Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, on 15 May 1961. This species has a loud, conspicuous "cow-cow-cow" call and is more often heard than seen. Once this call is learned, the Violaceous Trogon is recognized to be more common than previously assumed. Five of the eight records for the Balancán area were based on voice. The February and March specimens were not in breeding condition.

*T. v. braccatus* occurs within Tabasco.

Family ALCEDINIDAE

*Kagaceryle torquata* (Linnaeus)

Ringed Kingfisher


The large Ringed Kingfisher is a very common permanent resident throughout Tabasco. It is particularly abundant in the marshy coastal area and along the major waterways. It may be encountered, however, at almost any stream of water or pool large enough to support small fish. In fact, it was seen on two occasions near my camp 11 miles north of Balancán, one of the driest sections of the State. This species is one of the more common and conspicuous birds observed in a drive along Highway 160 through the coastal marshes from La Venta to Villahermosa and thence to Frontera. A favorite perch of this and other kingfishers is a utility wire extending over a marsh. The male collected in April had slightly enlarged testes.

163 *Aganus braccatus* Cabanis and Heine, Mus. Hein., 1, 1863: 184 (Mexico [=Valle Real, Veracruz]).
The race that extends into Tabasco is *M. t. torquata*.164

*Megaceryle alcyon* (Linnaeus)

*Belted Kingfisher*


The Belted Kingfisher is a common winter visitant to the coastal marshland of Tabasco. It is occasionally encountered as far south as Teapa or Chontalpa, but as yet there is no record from the eastern section of the State. My records for its occurrence in Tabasco extend from 24 October to 22 April. It undoubtedly arrives in the State earlier than my first date indicates, since 24 October was also my own date of arrival, and the species was already quite numerous. On the other hand, I was in Tabasco during the month of May in 1959 and in 1961, and I have yet to record this kingfisher in that month. The species appears to be most abundant during the months of October and April, but this situation is probably explained by the addition of migrating birds. Along Highway 180 between Villahermosa and Mira- mar, for example, I counted thirty individuals of this species on 24 October 1961. W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey *(in litt.)* banded a specimen at Teapa in February 1960.

Tabascan birds are referable to *M. a. alcyon*.165

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Chloroceryle amazona (Latham)
Amazon Kingfisher


This species, the most abundant green kingfisher in Tabasco, is a very common permanent resident of the marshy coastal section and the major waterways of the State. Along Highway 18C from La Venta to Villahermosa and Frontera, it is very numerous, sharing with the other kingfishers the utility wires that extend over the water. It is equally as abundant along the courses of the larger rivers. Near Teapa it is often observed quietly sitting on a branch jutting out over the Río Puyacatengo or noisily flying along the course of that river. Near Villahermosa on 13 April 1961, L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) reported that he found a nest of this species in a hole in a stream bank. The hole was about 3 feet long, and the nest contained four slightly incubated eggs.

I refer Tabascan birds to C. a. mexicana.166

Chloroceryle americana (Gmelin)
Green Kingfisher


166 Chloroceryle amazona mexicana Brodkorb, Auk, 57, 1940: 543 (Barra de Cahuacán, Chiapas, Mexico).
This small kingfisher is a common permanent resident throughout the State but is not as numerous as its larger relative Chloroceryle amazona. The Green Kingfisher typically inhabits the courses of small, shady streams, where it is usually observed sitting on an exposed branch that juts over the water. It may also be seen, however, in the coastal marshes and occasionally along the larger rivers. During a boat trip on 20 April 1961 up the Río Grijalva from Villahermosa to its juncture with the Río Usumacinta, I saw only two individuals of this species but concurrently counted twenty-four Chloroceryle amazona. The ovary of the April female was greatly enlarged, but the testes of the March male were only slightly enlarged. L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) reported that he found this kingfisher nesting near Villahermosa in April 1961 in situations similar to that of Chloroceryle amazona.

The subspecies occurring in Tabasco is C. a. septentrionalis. The type locality for this race has been properly restricted to Teapa (van Rossem and Hachisuka, 1938: 228).

**Chloroceryle aenea** (Pallas)

**Pygmy Kingfisher**


This species, the smallest kingfisher in Tabasco, is also the least common. There is, to my knowledge, but one record of this species outside the eastern section of the State, the specimen collected by L. C. Binford 8 miles southwest of Ocuápan. D. X. Lay reported the Pygmy Kingfisher as

167*Cheryle septentrionalis* Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 17, 1892: 134 (no locality [=Teapa, Tabasco, Mexico]).
rather common near his camp 25 miles north of Balancán. Near my camp 11 miles north of Balancár, I saw two individuals on 5 May, two on 10 May, and one on 11 May 1961. This species is usually found near small bodies of water within dense woods. In this habitat it is typically found quietly perched on an exposed branch, from which it occasionally dives into the water or pursues a flying insect. The flight of this kingfisher is very rapid and is reminiscent of that of a hummingbird. None of my specimens had enlarged gonads.

I refer Tabascan birds to C. a. stictoptera.168

Family MCKOTIDAE

Hylomantis momotula Lichtenstein

Tody Motmot


This little motmot is an uncommon permanent resident of dense rain forest. In Tabasco it is known only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions, where it inhabits the dense understory of the rain forest. I have only two sight records of the Tody Motmot from the State to supplement the specimen records listed above. On 17 April 1961, L. C. Binford saw an individual of this species at Teapa; and, on 5 December 1961, I saw another 8 miles south of Chontalpa. The specimen that was collected on 18

March 1961 appeared in response to my imitation of its call. The March male
had slightly enlarged gonads, but the remaining specimens did not.

Concerning the Tenosique and Santo Tomás specimens, Brodkorb (1943: 49)
notes that they "are much darker than is a series from Petén." Ridgway
(1914: 486) had also noticed that specimens from Veracruz and Tabasco were
"appreciably darker or less yellowish green above than most examples from
Guatemala, British Honduras, and Honduras," but he also stated that he felt
that the difference was "too slight and too inconstant to justify further
subdivision." I agree that there is no stable difference and refer Tabas-
can specimens to H. m. momotula,169 which, as currently conceived, ranges
from southern Mexico to Nicaragua.

**Electron carinatum** (Du Bus)

Keel-billed Motmot

**PUBLISHED RECORD.** Ridgway (1914: 475): Teapa.

The specimen from Teapa is, to my knowledge, the sole record for this
species from Tabasco. The Keel-billed Motmot superficially resembles Momoc-
tus momota, and possibly it is occasionally overlooked; however, aware of
this resemblance, I carefully observed all motmots and am convinced that my
failure to record this species was due more to its rarity than to oversight.

**Eumomota superciliosa** (Sandbach)

Turquoise-browed Motmot

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1/2 mi. S Balancán: 9, 14 April 1960 (54.6) DL.

**PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 48): La Ríbera, 1 July 1939; Boca del Cerro,
two, 3-4 July 1939. Ridgway (1914: 479): Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata];

169*Hylomanes monstula* Lichtenstein, Abh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin for 1838,
1839: 449, pl. 4 (Valle Real, [=Veracruz ?], Mexico).
Within the State the Turquoise-browed Motmot is local in distribution and usually either very common or absent. While traveling by boat up the Río Usumacinta on 22 April 1961, I recorded thirteen individuals of this species between Río Chico and Emiliano Zapata. They were seen singly or in pairs, sitting on exposed limbs projecting out over the water or upon exposed roots jutting from the bare riverbank. In a small wood along the Río Usumacinta near Emiliano Zapata the next day, I counted fifteen birds in a period of approximately an hour. In the spring of 1960, D. M. Lay reported Turquoise-browed Motmots as quite common along the river near Balancán and at El Limón (Balancán municipio) on the Río San Pedro. On the other hand, along the river north of Río Chico toward Jonuta and Frontera, none were noted (D. K. Lay saw a motmot near Jonuta that was probably of this species). Neither Lay in 1960 nor I in 1961 observed the species in the open country north of Balancán. I have never seen Turquoise-browed Motmots in Tabasco more than 50 to 75 yards from the banks of the Río Usumacinta or one of its major tributaries. This narrow distribution is possibly connected with their use of riverbanks as nesting sites (the banks of most of the other Tabascan rivers are heavily clothed with forest and hence unsuitable for this species). It is interesting to note that the three specimens reported by Brodkorb (1943: 48) were collected at localities (La Ribera; Boca del Cerro) situated on the bank of the Río Usumacinta. There is, however, a record (Ridgway, 1914: 479) of a bird from Teapa. The Balancán female did not have an enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to E. s. superciliosa. 170

170 P[yonites] superciliosus Sandbach, Athenaeum, 517, 1837: 698 (Mexico [=Campeche]).
**Momotus momota** (Linnaeus)

**Blue-crowned Motmot**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 18 mi. NE Teapa: c, 30 March 1959 (110.5) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 20 March 1960 (106.0) DL; c, 1 March 1961 (142.0) EA. 2 mi. NE Teapa: c, 6 March 1959 (131.9) DL. 11 mi. N Balancán: 9, 3 May 1961 (no wt.) EA. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: c, 11 November 1961 (113.8) MB. 


The Blue-crowned Motmot is a common permanent resident of almost every wooded area within the State. It is, however, more abundant in the rain forest belt and the dry tropical evergreen woods than it is in the freshwater swamp forest along the coastal area. This species is not easy to observe, and its true abundance is not appreciated until its "mot-mot" call is learned. For example, on fifteen of the thirty-three occasions on which this species was recorded from February through May 1961, its presence was determined by voice alone. In contrast, for the same period of time in 1959 in essentially the same type of habitat, before I had become familiar with the call note, I recorded the species on only fourteen occasions. None of the specimens had greatly enlarged gonads.

I refer Tabascan birds to *M. m. lessonii.*

**Family GALBULIDAE**

**Galbula ruficauda** Cuvier

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar**

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The Rufous-tailed Jacamar is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest and dense dry tropical evergreen woods. I have records for this species only from the Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique regions. It was encountered most commonly at the last locality, seven out of fourteen days in the field. It is usually seen in the lower levels of the forest, quietly perched on some exposed branch from which it sallies forth for its insect prey. On 26 February 1959 at Teapa, however, I collected an individual that was perched at the top of a tall tree in the rain forest. This bird had a large moth in its throat. The Rufous-tailed Jacamar can be easily overlooked, unless calling, because of its camouflaging coloration and habit of remaining motionless on its perch. The two Teapa birds, collected in April and May, had slightly enlarged gonads.

The race occurring in Tabasco is *G. r. melanogenia*.172

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**Family BUCCONIDAE**

*Notarchus macrorhynchus* (Gmelin)

White-necked Puffbird

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 8 mi. NW Teapa: ♂, 11 April 1959 (100.4) DB; ♀, 11 April 1959 (106.7) DB; 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 21 April 1959 (105.1) DB; ♂, 17 May 1959 (102.1) DB; ♀, 19 March 1961 (107.5) DB.

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172. *Galbula melanogenia* Sclater, Jardine's Contrib. Ornith. for 1852, 1853: 61, pl. 90 (no locality [=Veragua, Panama]).
To date within Tabasco, this puffbird is known only from the Ocuápan, Chontalpa, and Teapa regions. On 11 April 1959, J. K. McDonald and I saw a pair in a small wood 8 miles northwest of Teapa. The two birds were sitting about fifteen feet above the ground on a dead snag that projected from the edge of the wood into a small clearing. They were very tame; and, after the first bird was collected, its mate merely flew to a neighboring limb and allowed itself to become the second specimen for the State. J. P. Gee (in litt.) reports observing another pair at Teapa on 26 March 1960. On 23 March 1961, 10 miles south of Chontalpa, I saw a White-necked Puffbird, again sitting on a dead snag projecting from the edge of the rain forest, but on this occasion the bird was very high. In the rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa, L. C. Binford saw a pair on 25 October 1961; and, on 9 December of the same year, I saw an individual 4 miles southwest of Ocuápan. The three specimens of this puffbird that I obtained at Teapa were purchased from a young native who had a knack for capturing this species. All the Tabascan specimens had only slightly enlarged gonads.

N. m. hyperrhynchus\textsuperscript{173} occurs from southern Mexico to northern South America.

\begin{flushright}
\textbf{Malacoptila panamensis} Lafresnaye \\
White-whiskered Puffbird
\end{flushright}


In the dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, the White-whiskered Puffbird was encountered six out of fourteen days in the field. There it was usually seen in the lower levels of the forest, five to twenty feet above the ground, and often on an exposed branch over a trail. This species is extremely tame and is oblivious to the actions of an intruder. Except for one record from Teapa, this species has been found only in the eastern section of the State (Santo Tomás; 8 miles southeast of Tenosique); whereas, *Notharchus macrorhynchus* has never yet been recorded from that section. The Tenosique specimens were not in breeding condition.

Tabascan birds are referable to *M. p. inornata*.174

Family RAMPHASTIDAE

*Pteroglossus torquatus* (Gmelin)

Collared Aracari


This colorful toucan is a very common permanent resident of the high rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of the State. It is particularly numerous in the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions: but I have seen it occasionally in the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán, and both Weber (1945: 193) and I recorded it from La Venta. In the rain forest section 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, for example, this species was recorded

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on ten out of fourteen days in the field. Typically aracaris are encountered in pairs or small groups, usually milling about and feeding in the tops of the highest trees or flying across a clearing from one feeding ground to another. Neither of the two LSUMZ specimens was in breeding condition.

Miller et al. (1957: 23) give the range of P. t. torquatus175 as extending from northern Oaxaca through Tabasco and that of P. t. erythrozonus176 as the Yucatan Peninsula, including British Honduras and northern Guatemala. Brodkorb (1943: 50) states that the birds from the base of the Yucatan Peninsula to eastern Tabasco "are variously intermediate between torquatus and erythrozonus. The black spot on the breast is sometimes wholly absent, as in the most extreme erythrozonus." My February Teapa bird lacks a black breast spot, but resembles torquatus in all other respects. The wing measurements of my birds are too large for erythrozonus, and the thighs are rufous rather than buff, thus agreeing with torquatus. Brodkorb states that torquatus has a bluish sheen on the back, whereas that of erythrozonus is greenish. In comparing Caxacan, Tabascan, and British Honduran birds, I cannot detect any stable difference concerning this character. I refer Tabascan birds to P. t. torquatus, but recognize that there is a slight tendency toward the Yucatan race as one proceeds eastward.

**Ramphastos sulfuratus** Lesson

Keel-billed Toucan

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175 *Ramphastos torquatus* Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 1, 1788: 354 (Mexico [=Veracruz, Mexico]).

The Keel-billed Toucan, locally known as "Pico Real," is a very common and conspicuous permanent resident of the high rain forest and occasionally the tall dry tropical evergreen woods (Balancán). It is most common in the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. In November in the State's best rain forest section, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, I recorded this species every day and averaged ten individuals per day. The largest number for any one day was twenty on 7 November 1961. The Keel-billed Toucan, like the aracari, is a bird of the upper levels of the forest. At Teapa it was often observed in small groups in the tops of the highest trees at the summit of hills covered with rain forest or in flight from one such location to another. The call of this species is very reminiscent of the guttural croaking of a frog. None of the specimens had unduly large gonads for a bird of such size.

*R. s. sulfuratus* occurs in Tabasco.

Family PICIDAE

*Piculus rubiginosus* (Swainson)

Golden-olive Woodpecker


This permanent resident can be looked for in almost any wooded area in the State; but although widely distributed it is nowhere common. It was recorded more frequently, however, from the rain forest belt and was most often seen in the Tenosique vicinity (observed seven out of fourteen days). In the Teapa and Chontalpa regions, it was seen only occasionally. Localities of record, other than those already mentioned, are La Venta, Balancán, and 11 miles north of Balancán. The two March females had greatly enlarged ovaries; the February male had slightly enlarged testes.

Concerning the specimen from Boca del Cerro, Brodkorb (1943: 51) states that it "is a little larger and has less golden color on the back, thus being somewhat intermediate toward P. r. maximus" Griscom of the uplands of Guatemala." All of my specimens, however, appear to be typical of P. r. yucatanensis.  

Celeus castaneus ( Wagler)

Chestnut Woodpecker

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 10 mi. S Chontalpa: c, 23 March 1961 (96.4) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 11 March 1959 (89.6) DB; g, skeleton, 27 April 1959 (85.3) DB; c, 6 May 1959 (89.8) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: g, 14 November 1961 (90.5) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 53): 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], four, 26-28 May 1939; Tenosique, 16 June 1939. Ridgway (1914: 142): Teapa.


The Chestnut Woodpecker is an uncommon permanent resident mainly occurring in the rain forest belt. It has, however, also been observed in small patches of woods in the coastal country near La Venta and in the relatively dry woods north of Balancán. It was recorded frequently in the Teapa region and was found in such varied situations as on fence posts lining roads out of town, in the middle levels of the rain forest, and in the tops of the highest trees in the densest sectors of the rain forest. Another favorite haunt of this woodpecker is relatively open cacao, coffee, and rubber groves that are situated at the margins of the rain forest. The two March males had slightly enlarged testes, each measuring 3 mm. The ovary of the May female measured 12 mm., that of the November female 9.5 mm., and that of the April female 6 mm.

*Dryocopus lineatus* (Linnaeus)

*Lineated Woodpecker*


This species is an uncommon permanent resident throughout the State. Superficially, it very much resembles *Phloeoceastes guatemalensis*, a more common species with which it is often confused. The two birds differ somewhat, however, in habitat preference. Whereas *Phloeoceastes guatemalensis* prefers the dense rain forest, this species is more typical of open country. Among typical habitats where I have found this species in Tabasco the following may be cited: cocoanut palm groves along the coast at Miramar; scattered trees and fence posts in the open marshy country north of Villahermosa; patches of oak in the dry country north of Balancán; and the rain forest.
margin at Teapa, Chontalpa, or Tenosique. In this latter habitat the two large species of woodpeckers can occasionally be seen side by side. Both of the specimens had slightly enlarged gonads.

D. l. similis\textsuperscript{180} occurs from Caxaca through Tabasco to Costa Rica.

**Melanerpes formicivorus\textsuperscript{181} (Swainson)**

**Acorn Woodpecker**


In the dry, open savanna north of Balancán, this species is the most common woodpecker and one of the more common birds. It frequents the dead snags and scattered trees in the open, cut-over area but perhaps is most abundant in the scattered oak woods of the region. At Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán, I counted ten and twenty birds respectively on 14 and 15 May 1961. I have never recorded any woodpecker, at any other locality within the State, in numbers that even approximate these figures. On the other hand, this area is the only known locality for the occurrence of the Acorn Woodpecker in Tabasco, a fact probably due to the occurrence here, and only here, of large patches of oak (small clumps of oak can be found in the Ocuapan region). The April female had an enlarged ovary.

Balancán birds are referable to M. f. albeolus\textsuperscript{182}.

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\textsuperscript{180} Picus similis Lesson, Descr. Mamm. Cis. Récent. Discoverts, Suppl. Œuvres Buffon, ed. Leveque, 20, 1847: 204 (San Carlos, Central America [=La Union, El Salvador]).

\textsuperscript{181} The wisdom in uniting Balanosphyra and Melanerpes is still open to question. Previous to this union, this species was known as Balanosphyra formicivora.

Centurus aurifrons\textsuperscript{183} (Wagler)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—La Venta: \( \varnothing \), 28 March 1961 (77.1) DB. 3 mi. W Miramar; \( \varnothing \), 5 March 1961 (69.2) DB. 2 mi. E Teapa; \( \varnothing \), 3 March 1959 (79.1) DB. 2 mi. E Teapa, Tacotalpa road; \( \varnothing \), 15 May 1959 (75.2) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán; \( \varnothing \), 12 May 1961 (76.8) DB. Balancán; \( \varnothing \), 28 April 1961 (78.5) EA. 8 mi. SE Tenosique; \( \varnothing \), 10 November 1961 (76.2) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 52): Balancán, three, 9–16 May 1939; Tenosique, 13 June 1939; Emiliano Zapata, 19 July 1939. Hargitt (1890: 173): Teapa, seven, January, February, and March. Ridgway (1914: 69): Frontera; Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata]; Atasta; San Juan Bautista [Villahermosa], nine. Salvin (1889: 370): Teapa. Salvin and Godman (1895: 422): Teapa.

This species is certainly the most widespread and best known woodpecker in the State and thus can be classified as a very common permanent resident. It can be found in almost any clump of trees from the town park to the rain forest border. It, however, almost always avoids the dense rain forest, this being the habitat of Centurus pucherani. Among the various types of habitats from which I have recorded C. aurifrons may be cited the following: cocoanut groves at the coast near Miramar; mangrove swamps at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo; scattered trees in dry savanna north of Balancán; and the forest edge at Chontalpa, Teapa, or Tenosique. Localities, other than those previously mentioned, from which this species has been recorded are Sanchez Magallanes, 4 miles north of Paraiso, 3 miles south of Huimanguillo, 4 miles southwest of Coápan, 7 to 10 miles south of Chontalpa, 17 miles north of Villahermosa, 17 miles north of Teapa, 7 miles west of Teapa, 3 miles east of Macuspana (R. W. Dickerman, in litt.),

\textsuperscript{183} We are inconsistent in our treatment of superspecies complexes. In other similar complexes, for example, Colaptes, Junco, and Passerina, we consider their members to be poor species. In this case we consider the members to be good subspecies. Percentage of hybridization and intergradation is high, but doubtfully higher than in the other examples cited. Centurus aurifrons dubius, morphologically, resembles Centurus carolinus more than it does Centurus aurifrons aurifrons.
and 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex. The birds collected during the months of March, April, and May were in breeding condition.

Miller et al. (1957: 34) give the range of *C. a. veraecrius* as extending from northern Oaxaca across Tabasco to southwestern Campeche and that of *C. a. dubius* as occupying the Yucatan Peninsula, including Petén and British Honduras. The race *veraecrius* is said (Ridgway, 1914: 68) to be similar to *dubius*, but slightly smaller, with white bars on back slightly broader, under parts slightly darker and more strongly tinged with yellowish, and red of abdomen more restricted and inclining to orange-red. I have compared my series of seven specimens from Tabasco (and in addition three specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman at Macuspana in May 1955) with nine specimens of *dubius* from British Honduras and eight of *veraecrius* from northern Oaxaca. By measurements alone they would unequivocally belong to the race *veraecrius*, however, in coloration they are indistinguishable from British Honduran *dubius*. The Tabascan and British Honduran specimens lack the strong yellowish wash (the 8 March bird exhibits a tinge) that characterizes the Oaxacan birds. The patch on the abdomen of the Oaxacan birds is restricted and orange; this same patch on Tabascan and British Honduran birds is larger and bright red. Concerning the back pattern, I am unable to discern any stable difference in any of the three groups. Although I recognize that Tabascan birds are somewhat intermediate between *veraecrius* and *dubius*, I do not hesitate to refer them to the race *dubius*. The female from Miramar differs from any other specimen of the entire *aurifrons*.

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184 *Melanerpes dubius veraecrius* Nelson, Auk, 17, 1900: 259 (Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico).

complex that I have examined. The nasal tufts, nape, and restricted abdominal patch are of a very pale orange (paler than veraecru­cis) and the breast is of a dark slate color.

**Centurus pygmaeus** Ridgway

Yucatan Woodpecker

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 11 mi. N Balancán: d, 11 May 1961 (39.8) DB; d, 11 May 1961 (38.4) DB.

On 6 May 1961, a pair of Yucatan Woodpeckers was observed 11 miles north of Balancán; and, a few days later, on 11 May, three individuals were seen and two were collected. There are no other records for this species in Tabasco. These birds were noted in trees scattered through the relatively dry savanna, and in this habitat were seen together with *C. aurifrons*. In length the testes of the two birds measure 5 and 3 mm. respectively.

I refer Tabascan birds to *C. p. rubricomus*. They fit perfectly the description as given by Ridgway (1914: 70) for *Centurus rubriventris rubri­ventris* (now *rubricomus*).

**Centurus pucherani** (Malherbe)

Black-cheeked Woodpecker

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 16 March 1959 (54.6) DB; d, 23 March 1959 (59.1) DB; 9, 5 May 1959 (55.9) DB; 9, 18 February 1961 (46.7) DB; d, 25 February 1961 (60.0) DB; 9, 1 March 1961 (51.4) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORD.**

Ridgway (1914: 122): Teapa, two.

This woodpecker differs from the other species of the genus *Centurus*

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186 Melanerpes rubricapillus rubricomus Peters, Check-list Birds World, 6, 1948: 164 (Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico).

187 Centurus rubriventris Swainson, Anim. in Menag., 1838: 354 (no locality [=Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico]).
by its preference for the rain forest. Here it ranges from the ground
level to the tops of the highest trees. In Tabasco it has been recorded
only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. One of its favorite
haunts in the Teapa region is the comparatively open cacao groves that are
located at the rain forest margin, and in this habitat it is quite common.
I have observed this species on several occasions feeding upon the ripe
cacao fruit; and, because of this habit, the bird is rather unpopular with
the natives. None of my specimens were in full breeding condition.

I refer Tabascan birds to \textit{C. \textit{P.} perileucus}.^{188}

\textbf{Sphyrapicus varius} (Linnaeus)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

\textbf{SPECIMEN.} \textit{LSUMZ.}—7 mi. S Chontalpa: 2, 25 October 1961 (42.4) DB.

There are only five records for this North American woodpecker in Ta­
basco, and all five occurrences are in late fall and winter. An individual
was collected on 25 October 1961, 7 miles south of Chontalpa, in high rain
forest. The remaining records are sight observations as follows: one bird
8 miles south of Chontalpa on 5 December 1961; one bird 8 miles south of
Huimanguillo on 6 December 1961; one bird 7 miles south of Chontalpa on
7 December 1961; and one bird 4 miles southwest of Ocuápan on 9 December
1961. The ovary of the specimen was very small.

The specimen is referable to \textit{S. v. varius}.^{189}

\begin{flushright}
\footnotesize

189 \textit{[Picus]} \textit{varius} Linnaeus, \textit{Syst. Nat.}, ed. 12, 1, 1766: 176 (in
American \textit{septentrionali} [=South Carolina]).
\end{flushright}
Veniliornis fumigatus (d'Orbigny)

Smoky-brown Woodpecker

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— La Venta: $\varphi$, 29 March 1961 (32.5) EA; 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 2 March 1959 (31.9) DB; 2, 5 April 1959 (29.3) DB; $\varphi$, 16 February 1961 (no wt.) EA; 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 7 November 1961 (37.3) LB.


In Tabasco this little woodpecker is an uncommonly recorded permanent resident of the lower levels of the rain forest. Except for the one record from La Venta on 29 March 1961, it has been recorded to date only from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. This species is probably more common than records indicate; but, because of its shyness and choice of habitat, it is probably often overlooked. The Smoky-brown Woodpecker apparently breeds in the later months of the year, for example, the female collected in November contained an egg in its oviduct and two enlarged follicles in its ovary. On the other hand, the females collected in March and April had very small ovaries, and the male obtained in March had only slightly enlarged testes. Russell (MS.) noted that a male he collected in November in British Honduras "had fully enlarged testes, but the gonads of three other specimens collected in March and May were either not enlarged or only slightly enlarged."

Tabascan birds are typical of the small, golden race V. f. sanguinolentus.190

Dendrocopos scalaris (Wagler)

Ladder-backed Woodpecker

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— Balancán: c, 27 April 1961 (17.7) EA, w.85, t.44. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 370): Rio Macuspana.

On 28 February 1959 at Teapa, I recorded two individuals of this species sitting on an exposed snag of a tall tree above the rain forest. The lack of any subsequent records from that region has cast some doubt upon my original identification. In the dry savanna near Balancán, however, this species was definitely encountered on three occasions. Besides the specimen collected by E. T. Armstrong, I saw a bird 11 miles north of Balancán on 10 May 1961 and an individual on 20 May 1961 at Balancán. The only other indication, to my knowledge, of the occurrence of this species in the State is the record for Rio Macuspana by Rovirosa (1887: 370). With more extensive field work, the known range of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker within the State will probably be expanded to include at least the savanna country west of Huimanguillo.

Miller et al. (1957: 42) give the range of \( D. s. \text{ridgwayi} \)191 as extending from southeastern Veracruz across Tabasco to southwestern Campeche and that of \( D. s. \text{parvus} \)192 as occupying the Yucatan Peninsula. The wing and tail measurements of my specimen are less than the minimum measurements of these structures for either of the two races given by Ridgway (1914: 247). I refer my bird to \( D. s. \text{ridgwayi} \); but, since the specimen is in very poor condition, the allocation is based solely upon range.

Phloeoceastes guatemalensis (Hartlaub)

Pale-billed Woodpecker


This large woodpecker is a common permanent resident of the rain forest and its edge. It is not completely restricted to this habitat, however, any more than *Dryocopus lineatus*, a morphologically similar species, is restricted to open country. On 13 December 1961, for instance, an individual was recorded from Sanchez Magallanes on the coast; and, on 27 April 1961, a bird was collected in the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán. I observed this species most frequently in the best rain forest region, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique; at this locality it was seen on eight out of fourteen days. Pale-billed Woodpeckers characteristically tap on trees in couplets; and, once their tapping is recognized, they are found to be more common than at first assumed. Evidence indicates that this species, like *Veniliornis oleaginus*, breeds in the later months of the year. The two birds that I collected from the same tree at Teapa on 13 May were presumably a mated pair (at least they were male and female), but their gonads were very small. The April male also had very small testes. Russell (MS.) noted a similar situation in British Honduras. Birds that he collected in November were in breeding condition.

*P. g. guatemalensis* occurs from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec across Tabasco to Panama.

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[Campephilus principalis (Linnaeus)]

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Published Record. Rovirosa (1887: 370): Río Macuspana.

Rovirosa's record for this North American species is unquestionably in error. Since he recorded neither Dryocopus lineatus nor Phloeococastes guatemalensis, it was probably to one of these species that he had reference. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker has never been recorded from Mexico.

[Campephilus imperialis (Gould)]

Imperial Woodpecker

Published Record. Rovirosa (1887: 370): Río Macuspana.

Rovirosa's record for this species is unquestionably in error. Since he recorded neither Dryocopus lineatus nor Phloeococastes guatemalensis, it was probably to one of these forms that he had reference. The Imperial Woodpecker is a resident of the mountain pine forests of northwestern Mexico.

Family DENDACOLAPTIDAE

Dendrocincla anabatina Sclater

Tawny-winged Woodhewer


This woodhewer is a permanent resident of the wooded section of Tabasco, primarily south of the swampy coastal region. It is typically a bird of the lower levels of dense, undisturbed rain forest, but I have seen it in fair numbers in the dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. It
was observed practically every day during my stay southeast of Tenosique. In contrast, during three months in 1959 at Teapa, I saw the species on only two occasions. The rain forest at Tenosique is relatively undisturbed, whereas the Teapa countryside is well cut over. Wherever its proper habitat exists, this species is common. It is often attracted by ant swarms, which provide a large percentage of its food supply.

*D. a. anabatina*\(^{194}\) is the race that ranges through the State. Brodkorb (1943: 54) is of the opinion that a specimen from La Reforma could be called *D. a. typhia*\(^{195}\) the pale Yucatan race; but he cites the specimen under *anabatina*. There is no other indication that *typhia* may extend its range into the State, and my own specimen from Tenosique, a locality not far from La Reforma, is referable to *anabatina*.

*Dendrocincla homochroa* (Slater)

Ruddy Woodhewer

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 21 February 1961 (37.1) DB. 11 mi. N Balancan: ♂, 7 May 1961 (36.0) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♀, 4 November 1961 (32.6) LB; ♀, 8 November 1961 (37.3) DB.

In Tabasco this species is recorded only from the Teapa, Balancan, and Tenosique regions and is presumably a permanent resident. The Ruddy Woodhewer is, like the preceding species, found in the lower levels of dense, undisturbed rain forest and of dry tropical evergreen woods. I collected the first specimen for the State on 21 February 1961 on a hill covered with


dense rain forest 1 mile east of Teapa. This bird remains the only record for this species outside the eastern section of the State. Later near Balancán, in dense dry tropical evergreen woods, the species was observed in comparative abundance. Four or five individuals were seen at one time, gathering in response to "squeaking." In this particular wood Dendrocincla homochroa appeared to be the most abundant (or at least the most obvious) woodhewer. In November it was observed occasionally in the dense rain forest region 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. This species is also greatly attracted by ant swarms. Willis (1960: 159) states that in British Honduras it forages higher than D. anabatina. My experience in Tabasco with this form was very limited, but I did not notice this difference in habitat preference. I observed the bird most frequently in the lower levels of the rain forest and have on occasion seen it within a few inches of the ground. There is no definite evidence of breeding, but the species is undoubtedly a permanent resident within the State.

Tabascan birds are referable to D. h. homochroa.196

Sittasomus criseicapillus (Vieillot)
Olivaceous Woodhewer


This bird is another typical permanent resident of the dense rain forest belt of the southern part of the State. Its preference for undisturbed

woods is indicated by comparing daily records from Teapa with those from the collecting locality 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. In a three-month period in 1959 at Teapa, a well cut-over area, I saw three birds on two occasions, and during February 1961 I noted only a single bird there. During a one-and-a-half month stay at Teapa, J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported the species but once. On the other hand, the bird was observed every day during my visit 3 miles southeast of Tenosique in undisturbed rain forest and was the most abundant woodhewer in the area. The species has also been observed on several occasions in the rain forest south of Chontalpa. Although the bird extends its range into the dry portions of the Yucatan Peninsula, I did not note its presence in the dry woods north of Balancán. The Olivaceous Woodhewer ranges in its feeding from the lower to the higher levels of the rain forest.

Tabasco is situated in the zone of intergradation between Sittascmus sylvioides, a large, dark race ranging from San Luis Potosí to Costa Rica, and S. g. gracileus, the small, pale Yucatan race. Brodkorb (1943: 54) allocated a specimen from La Reforma to gracileus after comparing it with a topotypical series. Peters (1951: 19) and Blake (1953: 307) include extreme eastern Tabasco in the range of gracileus and state that sylvioides occupies the remainder of the State. Miller et al. (1957: 40) do not include Tabasco in the range of sylvioides. In size my specimens more nearly approximate the means given by Paynter (1955: 172) for gracileus. The Tenosique specimen is also lighter in coloration (with more olive on the under

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197 Sittascmus sylvioides Lafresnaye, Rev. Mag. Zool., 2, 1850: 590 (Mexico [=Veracruz, Mexico]).

parts) than the Teapa birds and is thus typical of *gracileus*. On the other hand, the Teapa birds are almost as dark as typical *sylvioidea*es from northern Oaxaca and San Luis Potosí. Because of the small size of all the specimens, I refer Tabascan birds to *gracileus*, but recognize the increasing tendency toward *sylvioidea*es as one moves west.

*Glyphornynchus spirurus* (Vieillot)

wedge-billed woodhewer

SPECIMENS. LSUNZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: ?, 4 March 1959 (15.3) DB; 9, 11 March 1959 (15.5) DB; 9, skeleton, 30 April 1959 (14.7) DB. 6 mi. N Tapijulapa: ?, 11 March 1951 (15.1) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 12 November 1961 (16.5) LB.

This species is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest belt of Tabasco. Although to date it is known only from the Teapa, Tapijulapa, and Tenosique regions, further field work will undoubtedly extend its range to include the entire rain forest belt. During three months at Teapa in 1959, I recorded the species eleven times, but never more than one or two birds per day. It was observed regularly, but in small numbers, in the rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, but was conspicuously absent from the rain forest region south of Chontalpa. Although it is usually encountered in the lower levels of the rain forest, it is sometimes observed in relatively open cacao, rubber, or coffee groves. The male collected on 30 April 1959 was in breeding condition.

The race that ranges through the area is *G. s. pectoralis*.
Dendrocolaptes certhia (Boddaert)

Specimens. LSUMZ.—2 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 24 March 1961 (59.6) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 1 April 1959 (57.9) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: ♀, 10 May 1961 (59.9) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♀, 5 November 1961 (62.7) LB; ♀, 8 November 1961 (64.5) LB; ♀, 10 November 1961 (60.0) DB.

The Barred Woodhewer is an uncommon permanent resident of the lower levels of rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. To date within Tabasco, with the exception of one bird seen 8 miles southwest of Cuápan, on December 10, 1961, it is known only from the localities listed above. Though the species is typically a bird of rain forest, I saw it occasionally in the relatively dry woods near Balancán. It apparently prefers dense, undisturbed woods, as it was recorded most commonly in the Tenosique region (the area that best exemplifies this condition); but, in the vicinity of Teapa, it was observed most frequently in open cacao groves. The bird is rather wary and difficult to approach. Because of this characteristic, I assumed it to be rare until I discovered its attraction to "squeaking". This species is, along with the dendrocinclids, a follower of any swarms (Willis, 1960: 159). The males of 24 March and 1 April had testes in, or very nearly in, the breeding condition; the remaining specimens, however, did not possess enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to the subspecies D. c. sanctithomae.200

Xiphorhynchus flavigaster Swainson

Ivory-billed Woodhewer

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200Dendrocoptes Sancti-Thomae Lafresnaye, Rev. Mag. Zool., 4, 1852: 466 (In insula Sancti-Thomae [=Santo Tomas, Guatemala]).
SPECIMENS.  LSUMZ. — 10 mi. S Chontalpa: 9, 22 March 1961 (43.6) DB; 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 4 March 1959 (43.4) DB; 9, 13 April 1959 (50.2) DB; 9, 21 March 1960 (no wt.) DL; 9, 18 February 1961 (49.3) DB; 9, 23 February 1961 (55.4) EA. Balancán: 9, 26 April 1961 (39.7) EA. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 6 November 1961 (43.6) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 54): Balancán, three, 14 May 1939; Reforma (La Reforma), 22 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforma (La Reforma), 25 May 1939; San Isidro, 8 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, 3 July 1939. Ridgway (1911: 246): Teapa; Frontera. Wetmore and Parkes (1962: 59): La Venta, ten; Teapa, three; Frontera.

This species is a very common permanent resident throughout the rain forest belt as well as all other wooded area within the State and is undoubtedly the most abundant member of its family in Tabasco. It was noted in large numbers in the dense, undisturbed rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique (thirty-seven birds in fourteen days), but it was observed commonly in the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán. This species is the only woodhewer that can be expected with any degree of certainty in localities outside the rain forest belt. It is often seen in small patches of fresh-water swamp forest (for example, La Venta, 29 March 1959) and is encountered frequently in open cacao, coffee, and rubber groves. The bird ranges in its feeding from the lower to the higher levels of the forest, beginning at the base of a tree and working toward its top. None of the LSUMZ specimens from the State had enlarged gonads.

Wetmore and Parkes (1962: 57) have recently revised this species. My series fits the description given for the new race X. f. ascensor,201 which ranges from central Veracruz to Tabasco.

Lepidocolaptes souleyetii (Des Murs)
Streak-headed Woodhewer


With the possible exception of Dendrocincla homochroa, this is probably the least common woodhewer in the State. I encountered it less frequently than any other member of the family. It so markedly resembles X. flavigaster, however, that some individuals may be overlooked as belonging to that species. The Streaked-headed Woodhewer is a permanent resident, primarily inhabiting dense, undisturbed rain forest, and it was noted more frequently in the Tenosique and Chontalpa regions than elsewhere in the State. On 17 December 1961, however, I recorded two individuals 3 miles east of Sanchez Kagallanes in the swampy coastal district. Although Salvin and Godman (1891: 187) listed the species from Teapa, neither J. K. MacDonald (in litt.), J. P. Gee (in litt.), nor I encountered it at that locality. In typical woodhewer fashion, Lepidocolaptes souleyetii ranges in its feeding from the lower levels of the forest to the tops of the highest trees. Neither of my two specimens was in breeding condition.

I refer Tabascan birds to the subspecies L. s. insignis. 202

Family Furnariidae

Synallaxis erythrothorax Sclater
Rufous-breasted Spinetail

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202 Picolaptes compressus insignis Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 54
(Otatitlán, Veracruz, Mexico).
This species is a common permanent resident of dense brushland and forest edges. Near Teapa the Rufous-breasted Spinetail is numerous in the dense brush along the railroad right-of-way and along the edges of the Rio Puyacatengo. Near Ciudad Pemex the bird is quite common in the thickets scattered through the wet marshland, but it is as plentiful in the dry, brushy sectors of the Balancán region. This species is exceedingly noisy, and its presence is much more easily detected by its voice than by sight of the bird. It will, however, respond readily to "squeaking."

On 3 April 1961, an individual was observed constructing a huge nest of sticks in a thicket in the marshy country 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex. In size the nest was approximately one by one by two feet and was about six feet above the ground. None of the specimens had greatly enlarged gonads, although the female collected on 22 March had an ovary measuring 5.0 mm. in greatest dimension.


Miller et al. (1957: 52) give the range of the race *S. c. erythrothorax* as extending from eastern Tabasco to Honduras. The race *S. c. furtiva*, ranging from northern Oaxaca to western Tabasco, is said to differ from *erythrothorax* in that the median portion of the abdomen is grayer, less whitish, and the flanks are more olive without any tinge of reddish. In

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studying a series of spinetails from Oaxaca, Tabasco, and British Honduras, I have noticed that the Oaxacan birds have, on the average, slightly grayer abdomens than the British Honduran birds. However, with respect to the coloration of the abdomen, I am able to distinguish only a few individual Oaxacan specimens from only a few individual British Honduran birds, and I can distinguish no basic difference in flank color. In abdomen coloration one of the Teapa birds resembles the Oaxacan birds, while the other two Teapa specimens more nearly resemble the British Honduran birds. I could not, with any degree of accuracy, draw a line through the State to separate the ranges of the two races. The differences appear so slight and dependent to such an extent upon individual variation that I believe that it merely confuses the issue to divide the population into two races. I would prefer, therefore, not to separate furtiva from erythrothorax and to consider all Tabascan birds as members of the latter race.

Automolus ochrolaemus (Tschudi)

Buff-throated Automolus

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Chontalpa: 9, 1 April 1961 (41.4) DB. 1 mi. S Teapa: 2, 23 March 1959 (38.8) DB; 9, 13 May 1959 (45.8) DB; 9, 14 March 1961 (37.9) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 5 November 1961 (38.3) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 55): Santo Tomás, two, 21-23 June 1939. Ridgway (1911: 218): Teapa.

This species is a common permanent resident of the rain forest understory. In this habitat it is probably the most common furnariid in the State. Because the bird is shy, its true abundance, however, cannot be appreciated until its song is learned. It is found in about equal abundance in the three major rain forest sections of Tabasco, the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. I have never recorded it from any other part of the State, as it appears to avoid the swampy lowland sector. A
female from Teapa on 13 May had an enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to *A. o. cervinigularis*.

**Xenops minutus** (Sparrman)

Plain Xenops


This species is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest belt and dry tropical evergreen woods. It was encountered most frequently in the dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique (twelve birds in fourteen days) and in the dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. In contrast, at Teapa during three months in 1959, I noted the species on only three occasions. In behavior the Plain Xenops is reminiscent of a nuthatch—flitting about small limbs, vines, and leaves in search of its food supply. Like the nuthatch this species often hangs upside down from its perch; but, unlike that bird, the Plain Xenops is seldom, if ever, seen on the broad side of a tree trunk, for it confines its activities to the smaller distal branches. The male collected on 3 May had enlarged testes.

*X. m. mexicanus* ranges from southern Mexico to Honduras.

**Sclerurus guatemalensis** (Hartlaub)

Scaly-throated Leafscraper


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My experience with this species in Tabasco is based solely upon the one specimen mentioned above. This bird was feeding in the midst of an ant swarm when I flushed it from the rain forest floor. It flew to a neighboring bush and began to call incessantly. For a short period of time, it perched on the side of a tree trunk in the manner of a woodpecker, bracing itself with its stiff tail feathers. It then flew back to the ground among the swarming ants but continued to call. To my knowledge, the species is known from only two localities in the State, Teapa and Tenosique, and is a rare permanent resident. It evidently requires dense, undisturbed rain forest as its habitat. With sufficient field work it will probably be found to be present, although rare, throughout the rain forest belt.

The testes of the November bird were quite large, 6.5 mm. in length, and possibly the bird was in the vicinity of a nest. Russell (MS.) states that a specimen from British Honduras on 14 November also was in breeding condition, whereas the specimens collected in March and April did not have enlarged gonads. The evidence, thus, seems to indicate that this species breeds during the later months of the year.

The Tabascan bird is referable to *S. g. guatemalensis*. 207

Family FORMICARIIDAE

*Taraba major* (Vieillot)

Great Antshrike


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207 *Trinctor guatemalensis* Hartlaub, Rev. Zool., 7, 1844: 370 (no locality [=Guatemala]).

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The Great Antshrike has rarely been recorded from Tabasco; and, indeed, I have never seen the bird in the state. The only specimen obtained through an LSUMZ expedition is the one mentioned above. Lay reported that he encountered the bird in dense brush next to a side road east of Teapa. This species is assumed to be a permanent, although rare, resident of thickets and brush, much the same habitat as that occupied by its very common relative Thamnophilus doliatus. To my knowledge, the Great Antshrike has been taken only from the Teapa and Tenosique regions, but it probably occurs, although in small numbers, in its proper habitat throughout the rain forest belt.

The subspecies that reaches Tabasco is T. m. melanocrissa.208

Thamnophilus doliatus (Linnaeus)

Barred Antshrike


The Barred Antshrike is one of the characteristic birds of thickets and brush. This is one species that is benefiting from the destruction of the rain forest by man. Paynter (1955: 176) states that in the Yucatan Peninsula "it exists almost solely in thickets which occur naturally." This does not seem necessarily to be the case in Tabasco. It is unusually abundant in the tangles and undergrowth that result soon after a strip of

rain forest has been burned. It is, however, not restricted to the rain for­
est belt but occurs throughout the State wherever the correct habitat is pre­
sent and hence it may be locally abundant or absent. Because of its habitat
the bird is not readily seen, and the best indication of its abundance is
its voice. It will, however, respond readily to "squeaking." Although it
is a permanent resident throughout the State, I found it most abundant in
the eastern section of the State, near Balancán and Tenosique. None of the
specimens were in breeding condition.

The dark race T. d. intermedius occurs from eastern Mexico through
Central America to Costa Rica, exclusive of the Yucatan Peninsula. The Teapa
specimens are typical of this race. Brodkorb (1943: 56) claims that the
birds of the eastern section of Tabasco (Tenosique; Balancán) "are quite
pale and possibly should be referred to T. d. yucatanensis. My Tenosique
specimen is almost dark enough for a typical intermedius, but the Balancán
bird is very light, possessing an almost white breast patch. The birds of
the dry Balancán region are, I think, best referred to yucatanensis, while
those from the remainder of the State are fairly typical of intermedius.

**Thamnites anabatinus** Salater and Salvin

**Tawny Antshrike**

**PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Miller et al. (1957: 56): Teapa, two, 20 March-14 April

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ton, 21, 1908: 193 (Temax, Yucatán, Mexico).
The occurrence of this species in the State is documented by the two specimens from Teapa mentioned above. Russell (MS.) states that the birds he and Peck collected in British Honduras "were foraging high in the tops of trees in the tall, humid forest." The Tawny Antshrike, although rare, is probably of regular occurrence in the rain forest belt of southern Tabasco.

The subspecies that barely extends its range into southern Mexico is *T. a. anabatinus*.

**Dysithamnus mentalis** (Temminck)

Slaty-capped Antvireo

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ — 8 mi. SE Tenosique:  ♂, 5 November 1961 (12.2) LB; 9, 5 November 1961 (12.3) LB; ♀, 7 November 1961 (12.7) DB.

In Tabasco this species is known from one locality, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, where I assume it to be a permanent resident. On 4 November 1961, L. C. Binford saw an individual of this species there, and the next day he collected two specimens, a male and a female. From 4 to 15 November, eighteen individuals were recorded at that same locality. The species is an inhabitant of the understory of dense, undisturbed rain forest and is often found foraging with small flocks of *Microharpia quixensis*. The Slaty-capped Antvireo is known from but one other location in Mexico, Pacatún, Campeche (Traylor, 1941: 212). The Tabascan specimens were not in breeding condition.

*D. m. septentrionalis* is said to occur from extreme southern Mexico to Panama. The Tabascan birds, however, differ from a series from Guatemala and Honduras in exhibiting less yellow on the abdomen and more slate on the
There appears, however, to be no stable measurement difference. Russell (MS.) compared five British Honduran and three Honduran specimens with four birds from Costa Rica and noted that the Costa Rican population might be darker and larger. I do not have an ample series, and the differences I have mentioned are possibly best explained by individual variation. I feel that there is sufficient basis for more research with this group.

**Microrhopias quixensis** (Cornalia)

**Dot-winged antwren**

In Tabasco the Dot-winged Antwren is a permanent resident of the rain forest belt and is locally common, if conditions suit its specifications (brush at rain forest edge or dense rain forest understory), or else conspicuously absent. I have encountered it at but two locations, the Chontalpa and Tenosique regions. Although the bird has been recorded from Teapa, neither J. K. McDonald (in litt.) in forty days, J. P. Lee (in litt.) in ten days, nor I during my visit ever saw it there. It was found to be most abundant in the dense, undisturbed rain forest 6 miles southeast of Tenosique, where it was noted ten out of the fourteen days that I was present. During those ten days I recorded seventy-six individuals. It is usually observed in small groups of five to ten individuals foraging in the rain forest understory. None of the three specimens had enlarged gonads.

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The race *H. g. boucardi* extends from southeastern Mexico to Honduras.

**Cercomacra tyrannina** (Sclater)

**Dusky Antbird**

**SPECIMENS.** LS.JMZ. — 7 mi. E Teapa: 9, 17 February 1961 (15.7) DB; 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 18 March 1959 (16.1) DB; 9, 6 May 1959 (18.3) DB; 9, 12 May 1959 (16.5) DB; 9, 14 March 1961 (17.8) EA; 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 5 November 1961 (17.2) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 57): Tenosique, four, 13-17 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 24 June 1939. Ridgway (1911: 96): Teapa.

The Dusky Antbird is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest belt of the State. In that habitat it prefers the dense forest understory and the thickets at the forest edge. It usually is much more abundant than it appears to be, as it is very shy and retiring. Until its call note and song are learned, it can easily be overlooked. As was the case with most rain forest birds, this species also was found in greatest abundance in the Tenosique region. The University of Kansas has two specimens obtained by R. W. Dickerman 6 miles south of Cardenas on 13 and 14 May 1955. The two males collected in May and the female collected on 18 March had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to *C. t. crepera*, which ranges from southern Mexico to Panama.

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214 *Cercomacra crepera* Bangs, Auk, 18, 1901: 365 (Divala, Chiriquí, Panama).
Formicarius analis (d'Orbigny and Lafresnay)

Black-faced Antthrush

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: d, 27 February 1960 (57.1) DL. 3 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 6 November 1961 (64.0) LB; d, 12 November 1961 (62.5) DB.

PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 57): La Palma, 2 June 1939; San Isidro, 9 June 1939; Tenosique, three, 15–23 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 21–22 June 1939. Ridgway (1911: 120): Teapa.

This species is a secretive inhabitant of the floor of dense, undisturbed rain forest. Fortunate indeed is the observer who receives more than a fleeting glance of this bird as it either flies or runs in the opposite direction. Once its call note is learned, however, it is found to be more common than originally suspected. On 27 February 1960 at Teapa, D. M. Lay captured an individual of this species in a mist net in a cornfield at the edge of the rain forest. I saw a bird myself on 13 March 1961 at Teapa, and later L. C. Binford recorded a pair on 14 April 1961 at the same locality. These are my only records for this species from the vicinity of Teapa. In the dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, on the other hand, I found it quite common. It is undoubtedly a permanent resident throughout the rain forest belt but is evidently quite rare west of the eastern section of the State. None of my specimens had greatly enlarged gonads.

The three Tabascan specimens are referable to F. a. moniliger with the qualification that they show a tendency toward F. a. pallidus. The whitish area of the abdomen is more extensive than it is in typical moniliger from Oaxaca, but not nearly so extensive as in typical pallidus from


the Yucatan Peninsula. Contrary to what should seem to be the case, the Teapa bird is much lighter than either of the two Tenosique specimens; however, there is considerable variation among individuals from any given locality.

Grallaria guatimalensis Prévost and Des Murs

Scaled Antpitta

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: d, 20 March 1960 (89.0) DL. PUBLISHED RECORD: Ridgway (1911: 150): Teapa.

On 20 March 1960, D. M. Lay captured in a steel mammal trap the specimen listed above. The trap was lying upon the ground on a hillside covered with rain forest near Teapa. This record is only the second for this species from the State. However, the bird is extremely secretive and may be more common than the data indicate. The larger of the testes of Lay's specimen measured 4.5 mm.

The race ranging through southeastern Mexico to Nicaragua is G. g. guatimalensis.²¹⁷

Family COTINGIDAE

Cotinga amabilis Gould

Lovely Cotinga


E. T. Armstrong and I saw a pair of Lovely Cotingas fly past our camp

10 miles south of Chontalpa on 16 March 1961. The next day Armstrong collected the first specimen for Tabasco. Additional birds were seen on 22 and 23 March. The only other record from the State is the individual I collected at Santa Rosa in November of the same year. This species is a bird of open rain forest and prefers the tops of the tallest trees in the vicinity. The bird collected in March had enlarged testes.

**Attila spadiceus** (Gmelin)

**Bright-rumped Attila**


Although this species is typically an inhabitant of the rain forest belt, it can be looked for in almost any type of woods within the State. For example, on 5 March 1961, I observed an individual in a mangrove swamp near the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo; and, on 17 December 1961, I recorded an individual in the mangroves along the coast 3 miles east of Sanchez Magallanes. Attilas were also seen occasionally in the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán. They were found to be most abundant, however, in the three rain forest districts, the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions. They are often encountered perched, after the manner of a flycatcher, on an exposed limb in an open area within the forest. That much of their food is obtained on the wing is indicated by the presence of highly developed rictal bristles. This species ranges from the lower levels of the forest to the tops of the tallest trees. Although there is evidence
that it wanders somewhat, it can be classed as a permanent resident. The
testes of the February bird measure 4.0 mm., those of the March bird 10.0
mm., and those of the May bird 6.5 mm. The female collected in May also
had an enlarged ovary, but the remaining specimens did not have enlarged
gonads.

The series of specimens from various sections of the State appear, in
most respects, to fit the characters of *Attila s. flammulatus*;\(^{218}\) however, in
wing length they measure below the average that Ridgway (1907: 808) gives
for *Attila citreopygus salvini*\(^ {219}\) (now *flammulatus*). Nelson (1901a: 172) named
*Attila mexicana*\(^ {220}\) from a specimen collected by him and E. A. Goldman on 27
April 1900 at Frontera. Concerning this race, Hellmayr (1929: 138) claims
that the differences are attributable to nothing more than individual vari­
tion. I refer Tabascan birds to *flammulatus*.

*Rhytipterna holerythra* (Sclater and Salvin)

**Rufous Mourner**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 10 mi. S Chontalpa: ♂ , 23 March 1961 (36.3) DB; ♂ , 31
March 1961 (37.3) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂ , 27 March 1961 (39.0) DB. 3 mi.
SE Tenosique: ♂ , 3 November 1961 (36.0) LB.

This species is an uncommon permanent resident of dense, undisturbed
rain forest. In addition to the four specimen records listed, there are
four sight records for the Rufous Mourner from the State, one bird 7 miles
south of Chontalpa on 14 April 1961 and one bird per day 8 miles southeast

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\(^ {218}\) *Attila flammulatus* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 11, 1848: 47 (Columbia [=Veracruz, Mexico]).


of Tenosique on 4, 5, and 8 November 1961. I collected the first bird on 27 March 1959, 1 mile east of Teapa, and it remains the only record for the species from that region. In the denser portions of the rain forest belt south of Chontalpa and southeast of Tenosique, the Rufous Mourner is occasionally encountered side by side with its sibling species Lipaugus unirufus. Both species are birds of the middle to upper levels of the forest and feed extensively by flycatching. All of the March specimens were in breeding condition.

Tabascan birds belong to the nominate race R. h. holerythra.

Lipaugus unirufus Sclater

Rufous Piha

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—10 mi. S Chontalpa: ♂, 16 March 1961 (83.7) DB; ♂, 22 March 1961 (84.9) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 5 November 1961 (88.6) DB.


My experience with the Rufous Piha in Tabasco is restricted to two localities, 7 to 10 miles south of Chontalpa and 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. At these localities the species is found in the middle to upper stories of the dense rain forest and is usually more common than its sibling species Rhytipterna holerythra. Its presence would be very difficult to detect were it not for its explosive call, which reminded me of the piercing cry of a large hawk. The two March birds had larger gonads than the November bird but were probably not yet in full breeding condition.

*L. u. unirufus* is the subspecies that occurs in the State.

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Pachyramphus cinnamomeus Lawrence

Cinnamon Becard

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 5 March 1959 (22.4) DB; 9, 5 May 1959 (20.6) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 9, 4 November 1961 (19.1) DB; 9, 7 November 1961 (20.9) LB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Ridgway (1907: 841): Teapa, four.

In the State this species is known from but two localities, Teapa and 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. However, it is probably a permanent resident, although uncommon, throughout the rain forest belt. Within the forest this species is an inhabitant of the middle to upper levels. On 6 November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, I observed a small flock of seven individuals, and on the following day L. C. Binford saw two birds at the same locality. All other records were of single birds. None of the specimens were in breeding condition.

The race P. c. fulvidior \(^{223}\) ranges from southern Mexico to Costa Rica.

Pachyramphus major (Cabanis)

Gray-collared Becard


The specimen cited above, an adult male, is the only record for this species from the State. Throughout most of its range, the Gray-collared Becard is an inhabitant of the upper level of tall forests. Thus it can easily escape detection and may not be quite as rare in the State as one might suppose from it's having been found only once.


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In assigning the specimen to the race *P. m. australis*, Brodkorb (1943: 58) comments that although "it is as small [wing, 77.5 mm., tail, 58.5 mm.] as *Pachyramphus major itsensis* from Yucatán, it has more black on the back, and the underparts are a little darker than in that form."

**Platysarca aglaiae** (Lafresnaye)

Rose-throated Becard


The Rose-throated Becard is a common permanent resident of the middle to upper levels of open woods throughout the State. It does not demand dense, undisturbed forest, as do some of its relatives, but is sometimes even found in trees at the edges of town. Among its favorite haunts may be listed cacao, coffee, and rubber groves at the margins of the rain forest. Localities within the State, other than those mentioned above, where I have recorded this species are: 9 miles south of Huimanguillo, 7 to 11 miles south of Chontalpa, 17 miles north of Villahermosa, 7 miles west of Teapa, 2 miles east of Teapa on the Tacotalpa road, 7 miles east of Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, and 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. The four males collected in March, April, and May were all in breeding condition.

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224 Pachyramphus major australis Miller and Griscom, Amer. Mus. Novit., 159, 1925: 3 (San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua).

Tabascan birds are typical of the dark subspecies *P. a. sumichrasti*.

**Tityra semifasciata** (Spix)

**Masked Tityra**

**SPECIMENS**. LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 5 March 1959 (86.4) DB; ♂, 27 April 1959 (82.2) DB; ♀, 28 April 1959 (95.5) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS**. Brodkorb (1943: 59): Balancán, two, 14-17 May 1939; Frontera, 27 April 1900; Teapa, 22 March and 18 April 1900. Ridgway (1907: 872): Teapa; Frontera.

This species is the most abundant, or at least most obvious, cotinga in Tabasco. It occurs throughout the State, from the rain forest belt to the coast. Frequently a pair is either seen sitting on an exposed dead branch at the very top of the tallest tree in the vicinity or flying from one feeding place to another. That the species feeds extensively on fruits is indicated by the number of specimens that are stained therefrom. All three of the males had enlarged testes, but they probably had not yet attained the full breeding condition.

Bangs (1915: 125) separated the Yucatan population from *T. s. personata* on the basis of lighter coloration in the male. This population he named *T. s. deses*. Brodkorb (1943: 59) states that "the color characters of deses are not very constant;" but, on the basis of measurements, he extended the range of this race to include Tabasco and southeastern Veracruz. I agree with Paynter (1955: 184) that there is not sufficient stability in any character, either of coloration or size, to warrant recognition of deses. Hence I refer Tabascan birds to *personata*.

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226 *Platyparus aglaiae sumichrasti* Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 52 (Otatitlán, Veracruz, Mexico).

227 *Tityra personata* Jardine and Selby, Illus. Ornith., 1, 1827: pl. 24 (Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico).

Erator inquisitor (Lichtenstein)

Black-capped Tityra


This species is found in essentially the same type of habitat as its more abundant relative Tityra semifasciata and, although uncommon in Tabasco, is undoubtedly a permanent resident there. Near Teapa it seems to prefer the tall dead trees in the vicinity of the Río Puyacatengo. In the Balancán region, it was occasionally observed in the tops of dead trees dispersed through the open countryside. As is the case with Tityra semifasciata, the Black-capped Tityra is also usually encountered in pairs. It was observed in only one locality not listed among the records of specimens: 10 miles south of Chontalpa, where I saw a pair on 22 March 1961. The March specimens had only slightly enlarged testes. Although uncommon in Tabasco, this species is undoubtedly a permanent resident.

E. i. fraserii occurs from southeastern Mexico to Panama.

Family PIPRIDAE

Pipra mentalis Sclater

Red-capped Manakin

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 10 mi. S Chontalpa: 9, 22 March 1961 (19.0) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: d, 2 November 1961 (18.7) DB; d, 13 November 1961 (19.7) DB.

The Red-capped Manakin is a permanent resident of the understory of dense, undisturbed rain forest. That it prefers undisturbed woods is indicated by its scarcity in the vicinity of Teapa, a region that has been badly cut over. On 27 February 1961, I caught a fleeting glimpse of a male 7 miles west of Teapa—my only personal record from that area. The species was found to be locally common in certain sections of woods in the Chontalpa and Balancan regions. At the other extreme, in the undisturbed rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique in November, it was perhaps the most abundant bird within the forest proper. For example, on 5, 6, and 7 November 1961, I counted respectively twenty, eighteen, and fifteen individuals. The University of Kansas has a specimen obtained by R. W. Dickerman 5 miles southeast of Macuspana on 7 May 1955. The March female had an enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to *P. m. mentalis*.

**Manacus candei** (Parzudaki)

White-collared Manakin

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—10 mi. S Chontalpa: 9, 22 March 1961 (20.8) DB. 7 mi. W Teapa: 9, 10 April 1959 (19.9) DB; 9, 28 March 1960 (20.0) DL. 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 19 March 1959 (13.6) DB; 9, 16 February 1961 (25.1) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 60): Balancan, 16 May 1939; San Isidro, two, 7-8 June 1939; Tenosique, three, 11 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 24 June 1939. Ridgway (1907: 731): Teapa.

This manakin is a permanent resident of dense, scrubby growth at the

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rain forest margin, and in this habitat is usually seen within a few feet of the ground. Within the State there are records for this species from the Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique regions. In overall distribution the White-collared Manakin is rather uncommon; but, in its proper habitat, it is found to be locally common. This species, unlike Pipra mentalis, was found to be more numerous in the Teapa and Balancán regions, and relatively uncommon at Tenosique. It is rather secretive and is not often observed; however, its wing snapping is a characteristic sound that issues from thickets at the edge of rain forest. On 27 February 1961, 7 miles west of Teapa, I observed a courtship display of this species. The site was a relatively open area beneath the forest canopy and contained a number of slender trees and vines. In this particular exhibition, two males and perhaps three females were involved. The males chased the females from one perch to another, always within a few feet of the ground and sometimes on the ground itself. Each hop, from one branch to the next, was preceded by the characteristic loud snapping of the wings. At times a male would land just below his chosen female, throw his head back, and extend his long throat feathers forward in such a way that they grotesquely surrounded, and projected beyond, the tip of his bill. All the specimens had enlarged gonads, but especially the female of 22 March, which carried an egg almost ready to be laid.

**Schifforais turdinus** (Wiec)

Thrush-like Manakin

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—2 mi. S Chontalpa: d, 21 March 1961 (33.3) EA. 10 mi. S Chontalpa: d, 30 March 1961 (31.6) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 6 November 1961 (no wt.) LB; d, 7 November 1961 (29.7) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brock-Korb (1943: 60); 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], two, 24-28 May 1939; La Palma, 31 May 1939; San Isidro, two, 10 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 21-24 June 1939.
This species is a permanent resident of the understory of dense, undisturbed rain forest. Within the State it has been reported only from the Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Balancán, and Tenosique regions. Its abundance at a locality is one of the better indications of the quality of rain forest. For example, this manakin was common in the rain forest 3 miles southeast of Tenosique. In the Chontalpa region the bird was occasionally recorded; and, at my camp 11 miles north of Balancán, it was observed on one occasion, 10 May 1961. On the other hand, neither J. K. McDonald (in litt.), J. P. Gee (in litt.), nor I ever recorded the species from the cut-over rain forest in the vicinity of Teapa. Although easily overlooked, the Thrush-like Manakin is tame and inquisitive and becomes very excited at an imitation of its whistled call note. The male collected on 30 March was in breeding condition.

Tabascan birds are typical of S. t. veraepacis.231

Family TITRANNIDAE

SAYORNIS NIGRICANS (Swainson)

Black Phoebe

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 1 mi. SE Teapa: d, 26 March 1959 (21.2) DB.

The Black Phoebe has been recorded from only one area within the State, along the rocky Río Puyacatengo near Teapa. It was usually seen in the middle of the stream upon an exposed rock from which it would pursue its insect prey. On 20 March 1959, J. K. McDonald (in litt.) observed an individual at that locality, and there on 28 March I collected the only

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specimen for Tabasco. The following day McDonald saw another Black Phoebe along the Río Puyacatengo. On 27 October 1961, L. C. Binford and I discovered an individual along the same river 2 miles east of Teapa. The specimen taken on 23 March had enlarged gonads. Assumably this species is a permanent resident of the area.

The under tail coverts of the Tabascan specimen are essentially white; therefore it is referable to S. n. nigricans.232

Pyrocephalus rubinus (Boddaert)

Vermilion Flycatcher


This species is a common permanent resident of the open marshland and savanna of the State. It is usually seen perched on an exposed fence wire or low bush from which it pursues its prey. I have records for the Vermilion Flycatcher from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Ocuípan, Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapate, Balancán, and Tenosique. North of Balancán in the cattle country, this species was most plentiful about the corrals, probably because of the overabundance of insects in this habitat. The specimens obtained in March and April had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to P. f. blatteus.233

232 Tyrannula nigricans Swainson, Philos. Mag., 1, 1827: 367 (Mexico).

Muscivora forficata (Gmelin)

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — La Venta: c, 29 March 1961 (53.7) EA. 15 mi. S Villahermosa: c, 21 March 1959 (no wt.) DB.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is an uncommon migrant through Tabasco and thus far has been reported only during the spring migration. It is usually encountered in the open marshland and savanna, either sitting on a utility wire or at the top of a tall exposed tree. Occasionally a large group of these birds will be noted in migration. For example, I saw a flock of twenty-five at La Venta on 29 March 1961. I have records for this species on dates ranging from 19 March to 11 May and from the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Balancán. The two March males had slightly enlarged testes.

Muscivora tyrannus (Linnaeus)

Fork-tailed Flycatcher


The Fork-tailed Flycatcher is a common breeding bird of the open marshland and savanna of Tabasco. It is usually seen sitting at the top of a tall grass stalk or small bush, but occasionally it perches on a utility wire. I have records for this species within the State on dates ranging from 4 December to 20 May. According to Miller et al. (1957: 70), there is no Mexican record for this bird later in the summer than 25 July. The Fork-tailed Flycatcher has been noted at Francisco Rueda, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Cunduacán, Villahermosa, Huastecas, and Balancán. My specimens taken in March had enlarged gonads.
Tabascan birds are of the race *M. t. monachus*.234

_Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus)

Eastern Kingbird


For a short period in the spring and the fall, this kingbird is a common migrant through Tabasco, often in flocks of considerable numbers. It is usually observed in flight, on utility wires, or in the tops of tall trees. E. P. Edwards (in litt.) reported seeing, on 6 September 1959 at Frontera "two or three flocks of Eastern Kingbirds flying generally southeast (up the river, 2:00 P.M.)." He counted ten to twenty birds per flock. Between Frontera and Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Edwards observed additional individuals of this species. During the spring migration there are records for this species from the State on dates ranging from 18 April to 15 May inclusive, from the vicinities of Villahermosa, Teapa, and Balancán. The specimens taken in April and May had slightly enlarged gonads.

* _Tyrannus verticalis_ Say

Western Kingbird

On 22 April 1959, J. K. McDonald and I saw a flock of ten kingbirds flying along a fence row in the open marshland south of Miramar. At that time there was no question in our minds concerning the identification of these birds as Western Kingbirds. We must admit, however, that the

similarity between this species and the Tropical Kingbird is close enough to cast an element of doubt upon a mere sight observation.

*Tyrannus melancholicus* Vieillot

*Tropical Kingbird*


This permanent resident is one of the more abundant and widely distributed species within Tabasco. It avoids only the densely wooded sections. The Tropical Kingbird is particularly abundant in the open marshland and savanna but is also a very common inhabitant of village parks and the edges of towns. All the specimens had enlarged gonads. The ovary of the female taken 15 miles south of Villahermosa in May was greatly enlarged.

*T. m. chloronotus* is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

**Legatus leucophaius** (Vieillot)

*Piratic Flycatcher*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 25 March 1959 (29.3) DB; ♀, 15 April 1959 (29.8) DB. 


The Piratic Flycatcher is an uncommon breeding bird of the State (it possibly migrates from Tabasco in the winter). I have seen the bird only in the tall trees along the Río Puyacatengo at Teapa, on dates ranging from 25 March to 15 April. It has been recorded from the State on dates

*235* *Tyrannus chloronotus* Berlepsch, *Ornis*, 14, 1907: 474 (Temax, Yucatán, Mexico).
ranging from 25 March to 16 June. L. L. Wolf observed several individuals of this species on 12 April 1961. The Piratic Flycatcher is an inhabitant of the rain forest canopy and trees at the forest edge. Aside from Teapa this species has been recorded from Atoyac and Tenosique. The University of Kansas has a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman southwest of Teapa on 24 May 1955. The male obtained on 25 March had slightly enlarged testes, and the female taken in April had an enlarged ovary.

The race occurring in Tabasco is L. l. variegatus.\textsuperscript{236}

**Myiodyastes luteiventris** Sclater

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher

SPEdECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa; 9, 15 April 1959 (58.6) DB; 9, 14 May 1959 (43.9) DB. Pato, 9 mi. N Balancán; 9, 15 May 1961 (40.9) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 62): Balancán, 16 May 1939; Reforma [La Reforma], 23 May 1939. Ridgway (1907: 658): Teapa.

The Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher is known only as an uncommon summer resident in Tabasco. This species has been recorded from the State on dates ranging from 15 April to 23 May, but the time of departure in the fall has not been determined. I have records for this flycatcher only from the vicinities of Teapa and Balancán, where it was usually seen in small groups in the tops of tall trees either at the forest edge or in the open country. On 26 April 1961, three of these birds were observed producing a considerable racket in an oak grove at Balancán. The three specimens taken in April and May were in breeding condition.

Tabascan birds are referable to M. l. luteiventris.\textsuperscript{237}

\textsuperscript{236}Elainea variegata Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 24, 1856: 297 (Córdova, [Veracruz, Mexico]).

Myiodynastes maculatus (Müller)

Streaked Flycatcher


I have never observed this species within Tabasco; and, aside from the published records cited above, I know of only one other report of its occurrence within the State. On 15 April 1959, J. K. McDonald (in litt.) observed an individual east of Teapa. All the localities of record are in the rain forest belt. Myiodynastes maculatus is very similar to M. luteiventris and could easily be confused with that bird. However, I studied carefully all the Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers that I saw but still did not find the Streaked Flycatcher within the State. The status of this species in Tabasco is uncertain.

M. m. insolens238 occurs from eastern Mexico to Guatemala.

Megarhynchus pitangus (Linnaeus)

Boat-billed Flycatcher


The Boat-billed Flycatcher is a common permanent resident of the semi-open country near the edge of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. It is not nearly as abundant, however, as are the other two similar yellow-bellied flycatchers, the Kiskadee and the Social Flycatcher.

There are records for the Boat-billed Flycatcher from near Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. On 15 April 1961 north of Villahermosa, L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) found a nest containing four eggs 20 feet high on a horizontal limb of a tree. The two April males from Tabasco had enlarged testes.

The range of *M. p. mexicanus* extends from southern Mexico to Panama.

Myiozetetes similis (Spix)

Social Flycatcher

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 28 February 1959 (37.3) DB; 9, 2 April 1959 (40.0) DB; 9, 19 February 1961 (30.5) EA. Balancán: 9, 28 April 1961 (29.9) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: c, 2 November 1961 (30.7) KB.


The Social Flycatcher is one of the most abundant and obvious of Tabascan birds, and it occurs throughout the State. It is most abundant in the semiopen and cultivated country near the wooded sectors and also is very common about the Tabascan villages. As is indicated by the common name, this species is often noted in large aggregations of ten to fifty birds. Such a group is capable of making considerable noise, particularly toward dusk. The specimens obtained in April had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to *M. s. texensis*.

Pitangus sulphuratus (Linnaeus)

Great Kiskadee

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240 *Muscicapa texensis* Giraud, Sixteen New Species Texas Birds, 1841: pl. 1 (Texas [=Veracruz, Mexico]).
This species, one of the more readily observed of Tabascan birds, is an abundant permanent resident within the State. It is found everywhere except in the dense forested areas. It frequents the open marshland and dry savanna as well as the semiopen cultivated regions at the forest edge. Like the Social Flycatcher, this species is also a common bird of the village outskirts and parks. Between 12 and 15 April 1961, L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) found it common "and nesting in low thorn bushes along the roads" near Villahermosa. Some of the nests contained eggs, and others were not completed. The Tabascan specimens from February through April had enlarged gonads.

Most recent workers include southern Mexico within the range of P. s. guatimalensis, and I follow this classification. Miller et al. (1957: 76), however, state that populations of "southern Mexico are best regarded as belonging here [under P. s. derbianus] rather than in P. s. guatimalensis."

Myiarchus crinitus (Linnaeus)
Crested Flycatcher

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 11 mi. N Balancán: d, 8 May 1961 (33.0) DB.


On 8 May 1961, I collected a Crested Flycatcher in the dry tropical evergreen woods 11 miles north of Balancán. A few days later, on 11 and 15 May in the same region, I saw a few other individuals that probably were of the same species; however, these sight identifications were not definite. I know of no other observations of this flycatcher within Tabasco. The male collected in May had slightly enlarged testes.

The Tabascan specimen is referable to *M. c. boreus*.

*Myiarchus tyrannulus* (Müller)

**Wied’s Flycatcher**


Wied’s Flycatcher, although not as abundant as *M. tuberculifer*, is a breeding bird in Tabasco, especially in the open marshland and savanna. The status of this species during the nonbreeding season is questionable. Birds in the northern section of its range are known to migrate; and most of the Tabascan population may also leave during the winter months, as I did not note the bird at that time of year. It was encountered most frequently and in the largest numbers in the Balancán region. I have records also for the vicinities of La Venta, Paraiso, Huimanguillo, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. The LSUMZ specimens obtained in March and April had enlarged gonads.

243 *Myiarchus crinitus boreus* Bangs, Auk, 15, 1898: 179 (Scituate, Massachusetts).
Tabascan birds are referable to *M. t. cooperi.*

**Myiarchus yucatanensis** Lawrence

*Tucatan Flycatcher*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 11 mi. N Balancín: c, 6 May 1961 (23.2) DB.

The specimen cited above is the only record for this species from Tabasco. It was collected from the edge of the dry tropical evergreen forest. Although represented by only one specimen, this species is probably an uncommon to common permanent resident in this habitat north of Balancín.

**Myiarchus tuberculifer** (D'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)

*Olivaceous Flycatcher*


The Olivaceous Flycatcher, the most abundant member of its genus in Tabasco, is a very common inhabitant over much of the State. I have recorded it from the rain forest edges, mangroves, and open marshland, but it was probably most numerous in the open savanna. I have recorded this

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244 *Myiarchus cooperi* Baird, Rept. Pac. R. R. Survey, 9, 1858: 180 (Mexico).
species from the vicinities of La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Ocuápan, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Ciudad Pedem, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. The northern population of the Olivaceous Flycatcher is known to migrate. Whether or not the population that breeds in Tabasco is resident is unknown. However, the species appears to be represented in the State throughout the year; there are records from 20 February through 18 December.

W. E. Lanyon has examined my specimens of this species and states that they are closer to *M. t. platyrhynchus* than to *M. t. lawrencei*, especially in size.

**Nuttallornis borealis** (Swainson)

Olive-sided Flycatcher


To my knowledge, the specimen collected on 16 May 1939 at Balancán represents the only record for this transient in Tabasco.

**Contopus virens** (Linnaeus)

Eastern Wood Pewee

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 10 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 31 March 1961 (13.0) DB. 8 mi. NW Teapa: ♀, 11 April 1959 (17.0) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 13 April 1959 (12.3) DB; ♀, 28 April 1959 (18.0) DB; ♀, 2 May 1959 (15.0) DB; ♀, 11 May 1959 (17.1) DB. Balancán: ♀, 28 April 1961 (13.6) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Ridgway (1907: 519): Teapa.

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246 Muscicapa lawrencei Giraud, Sixteen New Species Texas Birds, 1841: 9, pl. 2 (Texas [-Nuevo Leon, Mexico]).
Members of the genus Contopus are commonly encountered within Tabasco, but it is almost impossible to distinguish the species in the field. The Eastern Wood Pewee is the most abundant of the three species in the State, but I have definitely recorded it only during the months of March, April, and May while on migration northward. Members of this genus have been seen during the late autumn, but the only definite records at that season have been for C. sordidulus and C. cinereus. The Eastern Wood Pewee is usually observed in the middle levels of the rain forest and of dry tropical evergreen woods. There are records for this species from the vicinities of Chontalpa (aside from the specimens cited above, an individual was seen and heard on 14 April 1961 by L. C. Binford), Villahermosa, Teapa, and Balancán. The LSUMZ specimens had slightly enlarged gonads.

Contopus sordidulus Sclater
Western Wood Pewee


The Western Wood Pewee is known in the State only as a rarely recorded migrant; but, because of its confusion with the other two species of pewees, it is undoubtedly often overlooked. The only definite personal record that I have for this species is the specimen collected on 8 November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. There were several other pewees observed during November at that locality, and some of them may have been of this species also. The only definite locations for records of the Western Wood Pewee within Tabasco are Teapa and Tenosique. The LSUMZ specimen did not have distinguishable gonads.
The Tabascan records are referred to the race *C. s. sordidulus* by Miller et al. (1957: 84). Although the correct subspecific identification of the Tenosique specimen is probably *sordidulus*, I cannot be positive. The normal difficulties involved are amplified by the fact that the bird is unsexed.

Contopus cinereus (Spix)

Tropical Pewee

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 8 mi. SE Tenosique; d, 10 November 1961 (12.6) DB.


This species is the resident pewee of Tabasco. Estimating its abundance is difficult because of confusion with *C. virens* and *C. sordidulus*, but evidence indicates that this pewee is uncommon within the State. For example, pewees are not common except during migration; and, despite a search for Tropical Pewees, eight out of the nine specimens that I collected were not of this species. The only definite record that I personally have for this pewee is the specimen collected 8 miles southeast of Tenosique on 10 November 1961. There is also a record for the Tropical Pewee from Teapa. My bird, taken in November, did not have enlarged gonads.

The race of this species extending from southern Mexico to Panama is *C. c. brachytarsus*.


248 *Empidonax brachytarsus* Sclater, Ibis, 1, 1859: 441 (Córdova, Veracruz, Mexico).
Empidonax flaviventris (Baird and Baird)

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 8 mi. S Chontalpa: 3, 5 December 1961 (11.3) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ?, 27 February 1959 (12.1) DB; 2, 16 March 1959 (10.6) DB; ?, 18 March 1959 (10.9) DB; 2, 23 March 1959 (10.0) DB; ?, 12 May 1959 (11.1) DB; 3, 14 May 1959 (10.4) DB; 2, 18 February 1961 (no wt.) EA; ?, 1 March 1961 (12.6) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Salvin and Godman (1889: 73): Teapa.

Members of the genus *Empidonax* are difficult to identify in the field on the breeding grounds. Wintering birds are virtually impossible to identify specifically in the field, and therefore the only definite specific records are necessarily based on specimens. Members of this genus are very common winter visitants in Tabasco, and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, with the possible exception of the Least Flycatcher, is the most abundant *Empidonax*, judging from the specimens collected. Members of this genus are most commonly encountered in the rain forest belt, but there are records from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been definitely recorded only from the Chontalpa and Teapa regions. The specific identifications of all the LSUMZ *Empidonax* flycatchers were checked by N. K. Johnson.

Empidonax virescens (Vieillot)

**Acadian Flycatcher**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: 3, 28 April 1959 (12.0) DB; 2, 6 May 1959 (16.0) DB.

The two specimens cited above from the vicinity of Teapa are the only definite records for this species. It is probably much more common than the data indicate and is probably a regular migrant and winter visitant.
**Empidonax trailii** (Audubon)

**Traill's Flycatcher**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 14 May 1959 (12.9) DB.

The specimen cited above from near Teapa is the only definite record for this species from the State. It is undoubtedly often overlooked and is probably a regular migrant through Tabasco.

Subspecific identification of this migrating bird is not possible.

**Empidonax minimus** (Baird and Baird)

**Least Flycatcher**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♂, 1 April 1961 (no wt.) EA. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 1 March 1959 (7.9) DB; ♂, 15 April 1959 (9.5) DB; ♂, 30 April 1959 (9.4) DB; ♂, 16 February 1961 (no wt.) EA. Balancán: ?, 27 April 1961 (9.1) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 12 November 1961 (8.6) DB; ♂, 14 November 1961 (9.9) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Ridgway (1907: 562): Frontera.

This flycatcher is undoubtedly a common migrant and winter visitant in Tabasco, especially the rain forest belt. Specific identification in the field, however, is not often possible, and the Least Flycatcher is undoubtedly often overlooked. It has been recorded from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Frontera, Teapa, and Tenosique and on dates ranging from 16 February to 30 April during the spring migration and from 12 to 14 November during the fall.

**Terenotriccus erythrurus** (Cabanis)

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 4 November 1961 (6.2) DB; ♂, 4 November 1961 (6.5) DB; ♂, 6 November 1961 (6.2) LB.

On 4 November 1961 in dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, I collected a pair of these flycatchers. Both of these birds had been
sitting in the trees 15 to 20 feet above the ground and came nearer in
response to my imitation of the call of the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers were subsequently seen on 6, 7, 11, 13, and 14 November of the same year at the same locality. This is the only location within the State from which the species is known, and the records given in this account are the first for Mexico.

The race of this species that extends its range into Tabasco is *T. s. fulvigularis*. 249

*Myiobius sulphureipygius* (Sclater)

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher


The Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher is a permanent resident of the lower story of dense rain forest within Tabasco. I have seen this species only in the vicinity of Tenosique, although it has been taken in other parts of the State, such as Teapa. Near my camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, this flycatcher was common and was seen on almost every day that I was present. The rain forest in that region is much less disturbed than that at Chontalpa or Teapa, and this factor was probably the reason why I observed the Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher only near Tenosique. In its manner of flitting about, drooping its wings, spreading its tail, and exhibiting its rump, this species reminded me of a redstart. The two specimens were obtained in November and did not have enlarged gonads.

249 *Myiobius fulvigularis* Salvin and Godman, Biol. Centr.-Amer., 2, 1889: 58 (Santa Fe, Veraguas, Panama).
M. s. sulphureipygius is the form occurring in Tabasco.

**Orychorhynchus mexicanus** (Sclater)

Royal Flycatcher

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: 2, 17 March 1959 (20.4) DB; 3, 27 April 1959 (22.9) DB; 3, 19 February 1961 (10.7) EA. 2 mi. E Teapa, Tacotalpa road: 2, 13 March 1959 (17.9) DL. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: 2, 5 November 1961 (20.1) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 67): 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], four, 24-27 May 1939; La Palma, 1 June 1939; San Isidro, 8 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 22-23 June 1939. Ridgway (1907: 355): Teapa.

The Royal Flycatcher is an uncommon permanent resident of the rain forest belt as well as the sections of dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. I have recorded this species from Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique, but it was much more numerous at the last locality. It is most frequently encountered in the lower levels of the forest but occasionally is seen high in a tall tree. The striking crown feathers are not easily noted in the field because the bird usually holds them appressed against the back of his neck. When these feathers are hidden the bird is rather nondescript and easily overlooked. The March and April birds had enlarged gonads.

**O. m. mexicanus** ranges from southeastern Mexico to Honduras.

**Platyrinchus mystaceus** (Vieillot)

White-throated Spadebill

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Within Tabasco this flycatcher is a locally common permanent resident of the understorey of rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. It is seldom observed more than 4 or 5 feet above the ground. It often remains perched in one position for some period of time, thus making its detection somewhat difficult. I have personal records for the species from the vicinities of Huimanguillo, Ocúpan, Chontalpa, Balancán, and Tenosique. In addition, there are published records from Teapa, La Reforma, and San Isidro. The March female had a slightly enlarged ovary.

I refer the Tabascan birds to *P. m. cancrominus* with the reservation that they show an approach to *P. m. timothei*, the form occurring along the base of the Yucatan Peninsula. The bird from Tenosique has the greener back, a characteristic of *timothei*.

**Tolmomyias sulphurescens** (Spix)

Yellow-olive Flycatcher


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253 *Platyrhynchos mystaceus timothei* Paynter, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., 18, 1954: 2 (24 km. NW Itocome, Quintana Roo, Mexico).
The yellow-olive flycatcher is a common to very common permanent resident frequenting the middle levels of the humid rain forest and of the dry tropical evergreen woods of the State. This species is very active and is one of the more abundant and better known of the forest flycatchers of Tabasco. I have records from the vicinities of Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, La Reforma, and Tenosique; but it was found in greater abundance in the eastern section of the State (Balancán; Tenosique). The specimens collected in March, April, and May had enlarged gonads. The testes of the male taken on 6 May were greatly enlarged.

T. s. cinereiceps\(^{254}\) occurs from southern Mexico to Costa Rica.

Rhynchocyclus brevirostris (Cabanis)

Eye-ringed Flatbill

PUBLISHED RECORD. Brodkorb (1943: 68): 15 km N Reforma [La Reforma], 27 May 1939.

The specimen cited is, to my knowledge, the only record for this flycatcher from Tabasco. The species probably, however, occurs sparingly throughout the rain forest regions of the State.

The race of this species occurring in Mexico is R. b. brevirostris.\(^{255}\)

Todirostrum cinereum (Linnaeus)

Common Tody-flycatcher

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 18 mi. NE Teapa: ♂, 14 March 1959 (5.3) DB; ♀, 9 April 1959 (6.0) DB. 7 mi. E Ciudad Pemex: ♂, 3 April 1961 (5.2) DB. 8 mi. SE

\(^{254}\) Cyclorhynchus cinereiceps Sclater, Ibis, 1, 1859: 443 (Oaxaca, Mexico).

\(^{255}\) Cyclorhynchus brevirostris Cabanis, Arch. Naturg., 13, 1847: 249 (Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico).
Tenosique: ♂, 7 November 1961 (6.4) DB. 

This species is a common permanent resident of the open marshland and dry savanna of the State. It forages through the small trees and brush that are sparingly distributed through this habitat. This species is very tame and easy to approach. There are records for its occurrence near Frontera, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. At the last locality this flycatcher was not found in the rain forest, but rather in an open orange and lemon grove near the edge of the Laguna Coba. The March and April specimens had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are typical of Todirostrum sylvia (Desmarest) Todirostrum sylvia (Desmarest)
Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 20 February 1961 (7.4) DB; ?, 28 February 1961 (7.7) DB. 6 mi. N Tapijulapa: 9, 11 March 1961 (6.5) EA. 

The Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher occupies a type of habitat entirely different from that of Todirostrum cinereum. Whereas that species is a bird of open country, this uncommon permanent resident frequents dense undergrowth and brush at the rain forest edge, usually within a few feet of the ground.

In the field this flycatcher much resembles the Northern Bentbill, and the two species may be easily confused. Although the Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher has also been reported from Villahermosa and Balancán, I have observed it only at Teapa and Tapijulapa. None of the specimens had enlarged gonads.

T. s. schistaceiceps\(^\text{257}\) occurs from southern Mexico to Panama.

Oncostoma cinereigulare (Sclater)

Northern Bentbill

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Chontalpa: f, 1 April 1961 (6.3) EA, 1 mi. S Teapa: f, 5 March 1959 (6.5) DB; f, 16 March 1959 (7.4) DB; f, 8 May 1959 (6.5) DB; f, skeleton, 8 May 1959 (5.4) DB; f, 18 March 1961 (6.0) DB, Balancán: f, 29 April 1961 (6.3) DB, 3 mi. SE Tenosique: f, 10 November 1961 (5.8) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 69): Frontera, three, 9 March-29 April 1900. Ridgway (1907: 359): Frontera.

The Northern Bentbill is a very common permanent resident of wooded sections all over the State, but is most abundant in the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. This species inhabits the lower levels of the forest, and its presence there is readily noted by its call, one of the characteristic sounds of the dense Tabascan woods. This flycatcher has a wide distribution within the State; it has been recorded from La Venta, Cárdenas, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Frontera, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. The specimens taken in May had greatly enlarged gonads as did also the male collected on 16 March. Except for the male obtained on 1 April, the remaining specimens had slightly enlarged gonads.

\(^{257}\) Todirostrum schistaceiceps Sclater, Ibis, 1, 1859: 444 (Oaxaca, Mexico).
Elaenia flavogaster (Thunberg)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia


Within Tabasco this flycatcher is a common permanent resident of the open savanna and brushland and occasionally occurs in the semiopen country bordering the rain forest. It is usually observed in pairs or singly on a low exposed limb of a small tree or bush. This species has been recorded from Huimanguillo, Ocuapan, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique but was encountered more frequently and in larger numbers in the vicinities of Ocuapan and Balancán. The male collected in May had greatly enlarged testes, whereas the male taken in February did not have enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to E. f. subpagana.²⁵⁸

Myiopagis viridicata (Vieillot)

Greenish Elaenia


Locally in Tabasco, this elaenia is a common permanent resident of the forest edge and the semiopen country nearby. This species may also be seen within the rain forest proper or in the brush and small trees scattered through the open savanna. Without careful observation one can easily confuse the Greenish Elaenia with the Yellow-olive Flycatcher, which frequents

²⁵⁸Elaenia subpagana Salvin and Selater, Ibis, 2, 1860: 36 (Dueñas, Guatemala).
much the same habitat. The elaenia is, however, somewhat quieter in its actions than the other bird. The Greenish Elaenia has been recorded from the vicinities of Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Teapa, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, La Reforma, and Tenosique. It was noted most frequently at the last-named locality. The specimens taken in March and April had enlarged gonads.

I refer Tabascan birds to the form *M. v. placens.*

**Camptostoma imberbe** Sclater

**Beardless Flycatcher**


The Beardless Flycatcher is an uncommon permanent resident occurring along the coastal scrub and in the dry brushland near Balancán. On 26, 27, and 29 April 1961, this species was observed at Balancán in dry woods and brush usually within 15 feet of the ground. Later, on 8 and 12 May of the same year, I saw one of these little flycatchers in a small oak wood 11 miles north of Balancán. On 18 December 1961 at Sanchez Magallanes, I encountered another in the coastal scrub between the Laguna del Carmen and the Gulf of Mexico. The Beardless Flycatcher has also been recorded from Frontera (Ridgway, 1907: 416). The April specimens had enlarged gonads.

Many authors question the wisdom of dividing this species into races. If it is considered polytypic, however, the form occurring in Tabasco is the nominate race *C. i. imberbe.* The latter classification is followed by

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Miller et al. (1957: 101) and the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 351).

Microtriccus semiflavus (Sclater and Salvin)

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet


Locally within Tabasco, this tiny flycatcher is a common permanent resident of the rain forest belt. It forages through the treetops in a very unflycatcher-like manner; in actions and habitat preference, it reminded me of Hylophilus decurtatus. The Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet often forages in small flocks of four or five individuals. There are records for this species from La Venta, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique, but I found it with greater regularity and in larger numbers at the last-named locality. The specimens collected in March and April had enlarged gonads.

The race of this species that extends its range into Tabasco is M. g. semiflavus.

Leptopogon amaurocephalus (Tschudi)

Brown-capped Leptopogon


In general distribution throughout the State, this species is an uncommon to locally common permanent resident of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods; but it is not as scarce in Mexico as has been indicated by much of the recent literature. In fact, in the dense rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, the Brown-capped Leptopogon is a common inhabitant of the middle levels of the forest. I have often noted that individuals of this species have the habit of raising their wings above their backs immediately after alighting on a limb. It was this peculiar characteristic that attracted my attention to the first individual that I saw in 1959 at Teapa. There are records for this species from near Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. The University of Kansas has a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman 6 miles southwest of Teapa on 23 May 1955. The March and May specimens had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to *L. a. pileatus*.262

**Pipromorpha oleaginea** (Lichtenstein)

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**


The Ochre-bellied Flycatcher is a very common permanent resident of the Tabascan rain forest belt. I recorded it in the Chontalpa and Teapa regions but found it much more abundant in the Tenosique region. At Tenosique, in fact, this species was one of the most numerous birds of the

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region and was observed every day in numbers of five to ten. The Ochrebellied Flycatcher is usually seen at the middle levels of the forest. In February 1960 W. P. Nickell and K. D. Bailey (in litt.) captured an individual of this species in a mist net at Teapa. This bird was banded and released. The March and April birds had enlarged gonads.

*Progne assimilis* occurs from southern Mexico to Costa Rica.

**Family HIRUNDINIDAE**

* Progne subis (Linnaeus)

Purple Martin

E. P. Edwards (in litt.) reported seeing Purple Martins between Frontera and Río San Pedro y San Pablo on 6 September 1959. D. K. Lay saw an individual of this species flying over the savanna north of Balancán on 18 April 1960 and I observed a fully adult male Purple Martin sitting with a large flock of *P. chalybea* on a utility wire over the town plaza in downtown Teapa on 8 March 1961. I know of no other records for the occurrence of this species within the State, but it probably occurs as a regular, although uncommon, migrant.

**Progne chalybea** (Gmelin)

Gray-breasted Martin

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.-- Teapa: ♂, 30 April 1959 (41.4) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: ♂, 12 May 1961 (39.8) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 70): Balancán, three, 10 May 1939; La Palma, two, 6 June 1939; Tenosique, six, 13-28 June 1939.

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Locally this martin is a very common permanent resident within the State. It is found most abundantly near towns, especially those that are situated along the larger river systems. This species is quite common in Teapa and Villahermosa, nesting and roosting in the church steeples. It is often seen in flight feeding over the Ríos Teapa and Grijalva. The Gray-breasted Martin has been recorded also from Tapijulapa, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, La Palma, and Tenosique. In the dry savanna north of Balancán this species was the only swallow observed, and a nest was discovered in a hole within a tall dead tree located in a burned-over area. The LSUUMZ specimens obtained in April and May were in breeding condition.

*P. c. chalybea*\(^\text{264}\) is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (Vieillot)

**Cliff Swallow**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUUMZ.— 17 mi. S Villahermosa: ♀, 18 April 1959 (19.7) DB.

On 18 April 1959, I observed three Cliff Swallows sitting on a utility wire along the highway 17 miles south of Villahermosa. One of these birds (undoubtedly migrants) was collected. I do not know of any other report of this species from the State. The testes of the male taken were slightly enlarged.

J. K. Baker, who has examined the specimen, refers it to the race *P. p. tachina*.\(^\text{265}\)


**Stelgidopteryx ruficollis** (Vieillot)

Rough-winged Swallow

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 17 mi. S Villahermosa: ?, 18 April 1959 (17.3) DB. 1 mi. SE Teapa: ?, 28 March 1959 (18.0) DB.  


This most abundant of Tabascan swallows is a permanent resident as well as a migrant in the State. It is most commonly encountered in the open marshland and along the river systems of the State. Flocks of several hundred individuals may be observed feeding along river banks and over the water. I have personal records for this species from the vicinities of Paraiso, Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Ciudad Pemex, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. On 22 April 1961, I saw Rough-winged Swallows sitting at holes in the banks of the Río Usumacinta, but I do not know if they were nesting at that time. The specimens obtained in March and April did not have distinguishable gonads.

Brodkorb (1942a: 217) refers specimens from eastern Tabasco (Balancán; Emiliano Zapata; Tenosique; Santo Tomás) to **S. r. fulvipennis** and birds from Teapa to **S. r. stuarti**. My specimens from near Teapa, however, more nearly approach **fulvipennis**.

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267 *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis stuarti* Brodkorb, Condor, 44, 1942: 217 (Finca Pansamalá, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala).
**Riparia riparia** (Linnaeus)

**Bank Swallow**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— Miramar: ♂, 22 April 1959 (11.1) DB.

The Bank Swallow is a regular migrant through Tabasco and sometimes passes through in large flocks. There are records for the occurrence of this species in the State on dates ranging from 5 April to 7 May, but it has not yet been reported during the fall migration. On 22 April 1959, I saw a flock of twenty-five Bank Swallows flying along the beach at Miramar. Later, on 7 May of the same year at the same locality, I observed a flock of fifty. D. M. Lay reported seeing groups of this species in flight along the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta between Villahermosa and Jonuta on 5 and 6 April 1960. On 13 April 1961, I saw three Bank Swallows in a large flock of Barn Swallows that was feeding over a marsh 17 miles north of Villahermosa. The specimen, taken on 22 April, had enlarged testes.

*R. r. riparia* occurs throughout the New World.

**Hirundo rustica** Linnaeus

**Barn Swallow**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 3 mi. S Villahermosa: ♂, 18 April 1959 (19.8) DB.

The Barn Swallow is a common spring and fall migrant through Tabasco. I have records for its occurrence within the State on dates ranging from 24 March to 12 May and from 6 September to 18 December. It has been listed from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Jonuta, Emiliano Zapata, 

268 [**Hirundo** riparia Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 192 (in Europae collibus arenosis abruptis [=Sweden])].

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Balancán, and Tenosique. In migratory flight this species is usually seen near some body of water, either along the beach or the bank of some river. The specimen, collected in April, did not have distinguishable gonads.

The Tabascan birds are referable to *H. r. erythrogaster.*

**Iridoprocne bicolor** (Vieillot)

Tree Swallow

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 2 mi. W Miramar: ♀, 4 March 1961 (15.3) DB.

There are but few records for this swallow within Tabasco; but, when it is observed, it is usually seen in large flocks. For example, on 4 March 1961, I estimated the number of Tree Swallows flying along the beach at Miramar to approximate 1000 and on the following day to approximate 500. On the first day the direction of flight was from southwest to northeast, but on the second day the direction reversed. This species has been recorded in the State on dates ranging from 3 March to 13 April and from 12 to 18 December. Records are too few to show whether this species spends the winter in the State or if it is merely a migrant. It has been recorded from Sanchez Magallanes, Campo Magallanes, Miramar, and Villahermosa. The March female did not have an enlarged ovary.

**Iridoprocne albilinea** (Lawrence)

Mangrove Swallow

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 15 mi. N Villahermosa: ♀, 16 May 1959 (15.6) DB; ♀,

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269 *Hirundo erythrogaster* Boddaert, Table Planch, Enlum., 1783: 45 (Cayenne [=French Guiana]).
16 May 1959 (16.5) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 70): La Palma, three, 4 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, two, 2 July 1939.

The Mangrove Swallow is a common permanent resident of the coastal lagoons and the larger river systems of the State, often some distance from the coast. A familiar sight in a coastal lagoon or along a large Tabascan river is an individual or pair of this species sitting on a bare snag protruding a few feet above the surface of the water. There are records for the Mangrove Swallow from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Jonuta, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, Tenosique, La Palma, and Boca del Cerro. On 22 April 1961 along the Río Usumacinta near Río Chico, a pair was noted nesting in a hole within a snag that was protruding out of the water. The specimens collected in May had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are of the race I. a. albilinea.270

Family CORVIDAE

Cissilopha yucatanica (Dubois)

Yucatan Jay


Within its proper habitat this jay is a very common permanent resident. It is especially abundant in the dry semiopen brushland and oak woods near Balancán, but is also encountered in scattered populations in brushy areas

further west. On 19 April 1961, L. C. Binford and L. L. Wolf saw three Yucatan Jays flying across Highway 180, 26 miles east of Cárdenas. This observation is the westernmost record for the species. The Yucatan Jay was found to be common in the brushy countryside and nearby woods at Huastecas, 18 miles northeast of Teapa, and Selander (1959: 403) reports the species from Teapa. The University of California has a specimen collected by R. K. Selander on 14 July 1957, 5 miles south of Villahermosa. The University of Kansas has four specimens collected by R. W. Dickerman on 7 May 1955, 10 miles east and 19 miles north of Macuspana. The Yucatan Jay is very tame and responds readily to "squeaking." A small group of these jays is capable of creating a tremendous din. The males taken in April and May had greatly enlarged testes. The female taken 18 miles northeast of Teapa in May, however, did not have an enlarged ovary. The female collected in April at Balancán is an immature bird, and the ovary was not enlarged. Selander's July bird is a female that was laying and had a brood patch.

BrodORB (1940a: 547) described the race A. y. rivularis from eastern Tabasco and southwestern Campeche. This race is somewhat smaller than the nominate form, and the blue of the back is darker. The type locality for this subspecies is Balancán. I refer all Tabascan birds to this race.

[Aphelocoma unicolor (Du Bus)]

Unicolored Jay

Published Record. Du Bus (1848: pl. 17): Tabasco.

271 Cissilopa yucatanica rivularis Brodkorb, Auk, 57, 1940: 547 (Balancán, Tabasco, Mexico).
The inclusion of Tabasco within the range of this cloud forest species by Du Bus (1848: pl. 17) is almost unquestionably an error. Van Rossem (1942: 212) investigated this situation and examined the type in the Brussels Museum. This specimen was collected by Auguste Ghiesbrecht in 1838 or 1839. The type locality in the original description was given as merely Mexico, but later Du Bus (1848: pl. 17) restricted it to Tabasco. The specimen probably was actually taken in Chiapas or Oaxaca.

**Xanthoura yncas** (Boddaert)

**Green Jay**


The Green Jay is a common permanent resident of the dry semiopen country near Balancén. It prefers the small patches of oak found there but strays into other habitats within the area, such as the brushlands and the dense dry tropical evergreen woods. On 5 March 1961, a flock was observed in a tall mangrove swamp at the mouth of the Río San Pedro y San Pablo. J. K. McDonald (*in litt.*) reported seeing Green Jays along the Río Puyacatengo at Teapa on 19 and 29 March 1959. To my knowledge, this species has not been reported from any other localities within the State. The male taken on 3 May had slightly enlarged testes, but the other male, collected on 11 May, did not have enlarged testes.

Brodkorb (1943: 72) and Miller et al. (1957: 129) allocate Tabascan birds to *X. y. centralis*, but Paynter (1955: 214) states that *X. y. maya*.

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probably occurs in eastern Tabasco. The Yucatan form \textit{maya} differs from \textit{centralis} only in being somewhat smaller. One of the LSUMZ Balancán birds is referable to \textit{maya}, and the other is nearer \textit{centralis} in measurements as given by Paynter (1955: 215). Evidently eastern Tabasco is an area of overlap between the two forms.

\textit{Psilorhinus morio} (Wagler)

\textbf{Plain-tailed Brown Jay}


This species, one of the more conspicuous elements of the Tabascan avifauna, is an abundant permanent resident within the State. It is especially abundant in the humid rain forest section as far east as Emiliano Zapata, but is also present in the wooded sections near the coast, where it is almost entirely replaced by the White-tipped Brown Jay. The Plain-tailed Brown Jay has never been found in the region east of Emiliano Zapata. I have recorded this bird from the following localities: La Venta; Cárdenas; Huimanguillo; Ocuápan; Chontalpa; Miramar (2 records); Villahermosa; Teapa; and Tapijulapa. This species is most frequently observed in small flocks of five to ten birds. These flocks often contain both species of brown jays wherever the two inhabit the same area. These birds are extremely noisy and warn all nature of the approach of an intruder. The Tabascan natives call both species "Péa" from their call note. The two males taken in March had enlarged testes, but the female collected in the same month did not have an enlarged ovary.
I concur with Hellmayr (1934: 15) and consider this species to be monotypic, variation being principally individual rather than geographic. A discussion of the relationships between this species and *P. mexicanus* is given in the account for the latter species.

*Psilorhinus mexicanus* Ffippell

White-tipped Brown Jay


Throughout its range in Tabasco, the White-tipped Brown Jay is a very common permanent resident. It is found throughout the State from the rain forest belt to the coconut groves along the beach at Miramar, the mangroves at Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and the dry brushland north of Balancán. In the Balancán and Tenosique regions, this species is very common, and the Plain-tailed Brown Jay is absent. At Teapa the White-tipped Brown Jay is seen with flocks of *P. morio*, but that species far outnumbers it. Selander (1959: 400) saw forty-eight brown jays at Teapa between 15 and 17 July 1957, and 27.1% were *P. mexicanus*. My figures for that region are very similar to those of Selander. As one approaches the coast the White-tipped Brown Jay becomes more common and the other species virtually nonexistent. I have records for this bird from the following localities: La Venta; Paraiso; Cárdenas; Huimanguillo; Ocúpan; Chontalpa; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Teapa; Tapijulapa; Río San Pedro y San Pablo; Emiliano Zapata; Balancán; and Tenosique. The December and February males did not have enlarged testes,
but those of the March male were enlarged. Neither the March nor the April female had a greatly enlarged ovary, but that of the April bird was the larger of the two.

Selander (1959: 385) has presented evidence for considering the White-tipped Brown Jay to be merely a color phase of _P. morio_. This evidence consists of the following points: (1) the two species are often seen together in the same flock; (2) older individuals were observed feeding juveniles of the other species; (3) no behavioral differences were noted; (4) when "specimens from any one region are segregated with respect to sex and age, there are no differences in size" between the two species; and (5) similarity in molt progress. He was unable, however, to find the two species breeding in the same nest. In the case of the brown jays such evidence would be very difficult to obtain because of their wariness at the nest. I, too, was unable to detect any difference in habits or call note between these species, and I have on many occasions seen mixed flocks of these birds. Although I feel that the two brown jays are very closely related, I find it difficult to conceive of these birds as morphs of one species. Although mixed flocks are observed, the vast majority of these flocks within an area of overlap are of one type or the other. Teapa and Tenosique are merely 100 miles apart and essentially identical in habitat. It is peculiar that the morio morph is three times as abundant as _mexicanus_ at Teapa and nonexistent at Tenosique. I have searched at both Balancán and Tenosique for the Plain-tailed Brown Jay, but have yet to see it at either of these localities. On 14 March 1961, I observed a bird at Teapa that appeared to be intermediate. This individual possessed the white-tipped tail, but the entire underparts were dark. Intermediacy in the brown jays evidently has not been previously reported. I do not have the answer to the problem concerning
the brown jays, but I prefer to consider them as distinct entities until someone proves conclusively that they are phases of one species. The differences between the races *P. m. mexicanus* and *P. m. cyanogenys* to me appear to be too insignificant for subspecific recognition. The form *cyanogenys* is slightly smaller, but there is considerable overlap. The white tips to the rectrices in *cyanogenys* are slightly longer than that in *mexicanus*, but the overlap here is also sufficient to make identification very difficult. Selander (1959: 410) states that in his opinion formal recognition of subspecies in the brown jays "is of questionable value."

Family **TROGLODYTIDAE**

_Cistothorus platensis_ (Latham)

Short-billed Marsh Wren


On 3 May 1955, R. W. Dickerman collected five specimens of this species 3 miles east of Macuspana. On 15 May 1961, E. T. Armstrong obtained two Short-billed Marsh Wrens in the grassy savanna at Pato, 9 miles north of Balancán. On 6 December 1961, I collected one bird and saw two others in a grassy marsh 8 miles south of Huimanguillo. I know of no other records for this species from Tabasco. The two May birds from Pato had enlarged gonads and were probably breeding in the area. Two of the five birds

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274. *Psilorhinus mexicanus* Rüppell, Mus. Senckenb. 2, heff 2, 1837: 189, pl. 11 (Tamaulipas [=Tamaulipas, Mexico]).

275. *Psilorhinus cyanogenys* Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 3, 1877: 140, pl. 9 (Pearl-Bay Lagoon, Mosquito [=Pearl Cay Lagoon, Nicaragua]).
collected in May at Macuspana had enlarged gonads. The December bird, however, did not have distinguishable gonads.

The Tabascan specimens are referable to the resident race _C. p. elegans_. The December specimen is quite different from the others, but the differences are probably due to immaturity. The bird did not have an ossified skull.

*Campylorhynchus zonatus* (Lesson)

Band-backed Wren


The Band-backed Wren is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest belt of Tabasco. It occurs sparingly, however, throughout the humid section of the State wherever a small patch of woods is present. For example, on 6 March 1961, a flock was observed at Río San Pedro y San Pablo. This wren is also quite common in the vicinity of La Venta. In the dry savanna and dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán I never saw this species, although Brodkorb (1943: 73) recorded it from that region. Banded-backed Wrens usually move about the rain forest in flocks of ten to twenty birds. They will respond immediately to "squeaking"; and, when they do so, they create a terrific racket. The December bird did not have enlarged testes.

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The February and March specimens had slightly enlarged gonads, and the April male had greatly enlarged testes.

I refer Tabascan birds to *C. a. restrictus.* The type locality for this race is Frontera.

**Thryothorus albinucha** (Cabot)

White-browed Wren

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♀, 7 November 1961 (16.3) DB; ♂, 8 November 1961 (16.5) LB; ♀, 10 November 1961 (13.4) DB.

This species was observed and collected in November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. One bird was seen on the 7th, two birds on the 8th, and two birds on the 10th. The White-browed Wren was usually found in thickets and brush at the rain forest edge but was seen on occasion within the rain forest proper. It is rather secretive, but it will respond readily to "squeaking." Although there are no nesting records for this bird from Tabasco, it is undoubtedly a permanent resident of the area. The specimens did not have enlarged gonads.

The three LSUMZ specimens differ markedly from specimens of typical *T. a. albinucha,* and probably represent a new race. They differ in being darker throughout, but especially in back and tail coloration, and in possessing spots on the breast and flanks. Furthermore, the Tabascan birds were found at the edge of the humid rain forest, whereas typical *albinucha* is a bird of the arid regions of Yucatan and northern Petén.

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277 *Heleodytes sonatus restrictus* Nelson, Auk, 18, 1901: 49 (Frontera, Tabasco, Mexico).

278 *Troglodytes albinucha* Cabot, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat Hist., 2, 1847: 258 (Yalahao, Yucatan [=Yalahau, Quintana Roo, Mexico]).
Thryothorus maculipectus Lafresnaye

Spot-breasted Wren


The Spot-breasted Wren is a very common permanent resident of the undergrowth and brushy edges of the rain forest and the dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. It may be found, however, in almost any wooded area within the State to as far north as La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, and Frontera. This species was encountered in greater numbers in the Tenosique region than elsewhere. The male taken on 17 March and the female obtained on 26 April had greatly enlarged gonads; the remaining spring specimens had only slightly enlarged gonads. The November male did not have enlarged testes. The female taken on 26 April 1961 at Balancán lacks any trace of black in its plumage. The upper parts, instead of being rich brown, are buff, and the black breast spotting is replaced by buff markings. The black bars in the tail are likewise missing.

Tabascan birds are typical of *T. m. unbrinus.*

Troglodytes aedon Vieillot

Northern House Wren

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ. — 8 mi. SW Ocuipan: ♀, 10 December 1961 (10.2) DB.

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On 10 December 1961, 8 miles southwest of Ocuápan, I collected an individual of this species from a thicket on the border between a small patch of woods and the open savanna. This specimen is the only record in Tabasco for his winter visitant. The gonads were not enlarged.

I refer this bird to *T. a. parkmanii*, the grayer western form.

**Troglodytes musculus** Naumann

**Southern House Wren**


Within Tabasco the Southern House Wren is an uncommon permanent resident of the brushy areas and thickets at the forest edge. It may also be found on the village outskirts, in situations similar to those frequented by the Northern House Wren within its range. *Troglodytes musculus* has been recorded from the vicinities of Arenal, Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. The two March birds had slightly enlarged gonads, whereas those of the November bird were not enlarged.

Tabascan birds are referable to *T. m. intermedius*.281

**Henicorhina leucosticta** (Cabanis)

**White-breasted Wood Wren**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 1 March 1959 (16.9) DB; ♀, 4 March 1959 (14.2) DB; ♀, 11 March 1959 (14.5) DB; ♀, 25 February 1961 (16.3) DB;

280 *Troglodytes parkmanii* Audubon, Ornith. Biog., 5, 1839: 31 (Columbia River [=near Fort Vancouver, Washington]).

281 *Troglodytes intermedius* Cabanis, Journ. fär Ornith., 8, 1860: 407 (San José, Costa Rica).
The White-breasted Wood Wren is a very common permanent resident of the floor and understory of the rain forests of Tabasco. It has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions but was found in greatest abundance in the last-named area. This species is seldom seen more than a few feet from the ground and is most frequently observed upon the ground itself or upon fallen logs or limbs. The gonads of the February and March specimens were slightly enlarged, but the testes of the November male were not enlarged.

H. l. prostheleuca is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

Uropsila Leucogastra (Gould)
White-bellied Wren


The White-bellied Wren is a locally common permanent resident of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. It frequents the brushy borders of the woods as well as the undergrowth within the forest itself. It has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique regions, but it is much more abundant in the dry tropical evergreen woods of the Balancán area than elsewhere. The March and April males had enlarged testes, and the February and April females had slightly enlarged

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The three Teapa specimens are topotypes of the race *U. l. musica* and are typical of that form. The two Balancán specimens, on the other hand, seem to be closer to the Yucatan race *U. l. brachyura* and are identical with British Honduran birds of that form. The under tail coverts are white, barred with dusky, and the tail bars are much more distinct. Although Brodkorb (1943: 73) and Miller et al. (1957: 166) allocate specimens from Balancán to *musica*, I do not hesitate to refer my birds from that locality to *brachyura*. Eastern Tabasco is probably an area of overlap between the two forms.

**Family MIMIDAE**

**Dumetella carolinensis (Linnaeus)**

*Common Catbird*


This abundant winter visitant and migrant frequents the thickets and brushy areas throughout the State, but is more common in the rain forest belt, where it is seen most frequently at the forest border, although commonly observed in the undergrowth of the forest itself. The Common Catbird

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has been recorded within the State from 25 October to 11 May. It is parti-
cularly abundant during the latter part of March and in early April. None
of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

**Mimus polyglottos** (Linnaeus)

Common Mockingbird

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 4 mi. SW Ocuán: 9, 9 December 1961 (44.5) DB.

On 9 December 1961 in the open, dry savanna 4 miles southwest of Ocú-
pan, I collected the above cited specimen from a small bush. It constitutes
the only record for the Common Mockingbird from Tabasco. The bird was a
female and did not have an enlarged ovary.

The specimen is referable to **M. p. leucopterus**.285

**Mimus gilvus** (Vieillot)

Tropical Mockingbird

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 14 mi. N Villahermosa: 9, 18 April 1959 (49.8) DB. 7
mi. E Ciudad Pemex: 9, 3 April 1961 (51.0) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: 9, 11 May
1961 (43.1) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 74): Montecristo [Emi-
liano Zapata], 5 May 1900. Hallmayr (1934: 321): Montecristo [Emiliano
Zapata]. Miller et al. (1957: 172): Frontera; Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata].
[Emiliano Zapata]; Frontera.

The Tropical Mockingbird is a locally common permanent resident of
open savanna and marshland within Tabasco. In the dry, open savanna north
of Balancán, this species was reported almost every day, but I never saw it
in the savanna between Ocuán and Francisco Rueda. It was also very com-
mon in the open marshland near Ciudad Pemex and was frequently observed in

285**Orpheus leucopterus** Vigors, in Zool. Beechey's Voy. Blossom,
1839: 17 (no locality [=Monterey, California]).
the same type of habitat between Villahermosa and Frontera. In habits and actions this species is very similar to its northern relative. The three LSUMZ specimens, taken in April and May, had enlarged gonads.

My specimens—from three widely separated localities, Villahermosa, Ciudad Pemex, and Balancán—are all typical of the gray Yucatan race M. g. leucophaeus and are identical to British Honduran specimens of that race. Hellmayr (1934: 321), Miller et al. (1957: 172), and Ridgway (1907: 238) report M. g. gracilis from Frontera and Emiliano Zapata, and Miller et al. (1957: 173) report leucophaeus from Emiliano Zapata also. It is interesting that both races have been reported from the latter locality. If the allocation of specimens to gracilis is correct, Tabasco must be an area of intergradation between the two forms. It is strange, however, that none of my birds exhibit intermediacy between the two races.

Family TURIDAE

[Turdus rufitorque Hartlaub]

Rufous-collared Robin

A specimen of this species labeled from Tabasco was collected by Auguste Ghiesbrecht in 1838 or 1839. As has been mentioned by Brodkorb (1943: 8) and van Rossem (1942: 213), this record is almost certainly in error. This species occurs in the high evergreen forests of the Chiapas mountains and should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds until its occurrence has been verified.


287. *Mimus gracilis* Cabanis, Mus. Hein., 1, 1851: 83 (Central-Amerika [-Honduras?]).
**Turdus assimilis** Cabanis

White-throated Robin

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa:♀, 21 March 1960 (69.8) DL.

There are but three Tabascan records for this robin. On 21 March 1960 at Teapa, D. M. Lay obtained the specimen cited above from a mist net in the rain forest. On 23 February 1961 at the same locality, I observed an individual of this species. It was extremely shy and permitted me but a momentary glimpse. On 7 December 1961, 7 miles south of Chontalpa, I saw another White-throated Robin, also within dense rain forest. Lay's March female had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The Teapa bird does not closely resemble any comparative material available to me. It is a perfect intermediate between the brown Oaxacan and black British Honduran birds. I hesitate to refer this specimen to a specific race and consider it to be an intermediate between *T. a. assimilis* and *T. a. leucauchen*.

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**Turdus grayi** Bonaparte

Clay-colored Robin


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288 *Turdus assimilis* Cabanis, Mus. Hein., 1, 1850: 4 (Xalapa [=Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico]).

Locally this species is a common permanent resident within Tabasco. It sometimes was found in open woods and at forest edges, but was encountered most abundantly in open brushy country. I have recorded this bird from near La Venta, Ocuapán, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique, but it was most plentiful at Balancán. In the relatively dry country north of that town, it was seen almost every day, and its song was one of characteristic sounds of the area. In the rain forest districts, the Clay-colored Robin is not as common as it is in the savanna, but it is much more abundant at Tenosique than at any other rain forest area. The University of Kansas has a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman on 27 April 1955, 5 miles southeast of Macuspana. The testes of males taken in April and May were enlarged, but those of the March and November birds were somewhat smaller. The March female had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The darker subspecies *T. g. gray* 290 is the highland form of this species ranging along the Gulf slope of the mountains, whereas *T. g. tamaulipensis*, 291 the lighter race, is the lowland form. Both of these subspecies range into Tabasco, but most of the Tabascan birds are not perfect examples of either race. Of the two forms, *tamaulipensis* is evidently the commoner. Lay’s Teapa specimen is easily referable to *gray*, and the Balancán birds are certainly nearer to *tamaulipensis*. My Tenosique and La Venta specimens, on the other hand, are almost exactly intermediate in coloration.

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291 *Merula tamaulipensis* Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 75 (Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico).

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**Hylcichla mustelina** (Gmelin)

**Wood Thrush**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: c, 9 March 1959 (47.6) DB; 9, 21 March 1959 (no wt.) DB; c, 13 March 1961 (51.3) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Rovira (1887: 363): Río Macuspana.

The Wood Thrush is a very common winter visitant and migrant in Tabasco. It is found principally in the rain forest and frequents the floor and understory of that habitat. I have records for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco dating from 4 November to 27 April, but it probably arrives much earlier than the records indicate. It was observed in greatest abundance during the months of March and November. There are records from La Venta, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. The gonads of the March birds were not enlarged.

**Hylcichla ustulata** (Nuttall)

**Swainson's Thrush**


The Swainson's Thrush winters sparingly in the rain forest belt of Tabasco but becomes very common during the spring migration in late April and early May. A similar situation undoubtedly occurs in the fall; however, I have never been in the right area at that time of year. This species has been recorded from near Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. None of the LSUMZ specimens, collected during the months of March, April, and May, had enlarged gonads.
H. u. swainsoni\textsuperscript{292} is the usual race occurring in Tabasco, and all previous records have been referred to it. The specimen taken on 23 March, however, is clearly referable to the nominate form H. u. ustulata.\textsuperscript{293}

**Hylocichla minima** (Lafresnaye)

Gray-cheeked Thrush


The only record for this species from Tabasco is a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman on 5 May 1955, 10 miles east and 19 miles north of Macuspana. This specimen is located at the University of Kansas; and, to my knowledge, it represents only the second Mexican record for this species outside of the Yucatan Peninsula and the adjacent islands. Dickerman's bird is a female and the ovary was not enlarged.

The Tabascan specimen is referable to H. m. minima.\textsuperscript{294}

Family SYLVIIDAE

**Polioptila caerulea** (Linnaeus)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher


\textsuperscript{292}Turdu Swaimsoni Tschudi, Fauna Peruana, Aves, 1845: 28 (Carlton House, Saskatchewan, Canada).

\textsuperscript{293}Turdu ustulatus Nuttall, Man. Ornith. U. S. and Canada, 1, ed. 2, 1840: 400 (forests of Oregon [=Fort Vancouver, Washington]).

\textsuperscript{294}Turdu minimus Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 11, 1848: 5 (ad Bogotam in Nova-Grenada [=Bogotá, Colombia]).
Locally the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a very common permanent resident in Tabasco. The resident population is supplemented during the winter months by visitors from farther north. The species can be found in a variety of habitats, such as forest edges, the interior of the dense woods itself, semiopen savanna, brushland, and mangroves. I encountered it most abundantly in the dry savanna north of Balancán, where numbers were seen almost every day during May 1961. I have personal records from the vicinities of the following localities: La Venta; Sanchez Magallanes; Huimanguillo; Ocuápan; Chontalpa; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río San Pedro y San Pablo; Emiliano Zapata; Balancán; and Tenosique. None of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

I cannot satisfactorily distinguish any consistent difference between the resident race *P. c. deppei* and the wintering form *P. c. caerulea*. The back of the Balancán specimen is very bluish and is probably referable to *caerulea*. I am unable to identify the remaining two specimens. Brodkorb (1943: 75) refers his May Balancán birds to *deppei*, and Miller, et al. (1957: 202) cite both races from the State. I am not convinced, however, that these two forms can be separated accurately.

**Polioptila plumbea** (Gmelin)

*Tropical Gnatcatcher*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 8 mi. SE Tenosique: c, 12 November 1961 (6,2) LB; c, 12 November 1961 (5,3) DB.

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The Tropical Gnatcatcher was observed and collected from the canopy of the tall rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique on 12 November 1961. On the previous day L. C. Binford identified an individual of this species near Chotal. Gnatcatchers were quite common in the canopy of the rain forest southeast of Tenosique, but were so difficult to observe and distinguish (P. caerulea was also present) that positive identification was rarely attained. From their habitat (rain forest canopy), however, I think that the majority of these individuals were of this species. The two specimens, taken in November, did not have enlarged testes.

The race of this species occurring from Mexico to Panama is P. e. superciliiaris.297

Ramphocaenus rufiventris (Bonaparte)

Long-billed Gnatwren


The Long-billed Gnatwren is a common permanent resident of the undergrowth and brushy edges of the rain forest and the dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. It has been recorded only from the La Venta, Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique regions and was observed in greatest numbers near Tenosique. This species is not observed as frequently as it is heard, but it responds to the "squeaking" of an observer by approaching him.

Usually the Long-billed Gnatwren is encountered in pairs, but E. T. Armstrong reported seeing it traveling in small groups. Our March and April specimens had enlarged gonads, but those of the February male were not enlarged.

Tabascan birds are referable to *R. r. rufiventris*. The Balancán bird, however, is the lightest in color of the Tabascan specimens and has much less black on the throat. It probably exhibits a tendency toward the pale Yucatan form *R. r. ardeleo*.

Family MOTACILLIDAE

*Anthus spinoletta* Linnaeus

Water Pipit

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 5 mi. SW Ocúapan: ?, 8 December 1961 (19.4) DB.

On 8 December 1961 in the open savanna 5 miles southwest of Ocúapan, an individual of this species was flushed from the side of the road and was collected. Later the same day another Water Pipit flew up from the side of the road 18 miles southwest of Ocúapan. There are no other records of this winter visitant from the State. The gonads of the Tabascan specimen were not distinguishable.

I refer the Tabascan bird to *A. s. rubescens*.


Family BOMBYCILLIDAE

*Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot

**Cedar Waxwing**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 7 mi. W Teapa: ♀, 28 March 1960 (35.0) DL.

On 28 March 1960, D. M. Lay collected the specimen cited above from a fruit bearing tree 7 miles west of Teapa. This specimen is the only record for the Cedar Waxwing from Tabasco. It did not have enlarged testes.

Family LANIIDAE

*Lanius ludovicianus* Linnaeus

**Loggerhead Shrike**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 18 mi. N Villahermosa: ♀, 23 December 1961 (50.6) DB.

The specimen cited above was collected from a utility wire in the open marshland 18 mi. N Villahermosa on 23 December 1961. It represents the only record for the species from Tabasco. It did not have enlarged testes.

I refer this specimen to *L. l. excubitorides*.

Family CYCLARHIDAE

*Cyclarhis gujanensis* (Gaelin)

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 11 mi. N Balancín: ♀, 11 May 1961 (31.0) DB. **PUBLISHED**


The Rufous-browed Peppershrike is a locally common permanent resident

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301 *Lanius excubitorides* Swainson, in Swainson and Richardson, *Fauna Bor.-Amer.*, 2, 1831: 113, pl. 34 (Carlton House, Saskatchewan, Canada).

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of the trees (usually oak) and brush at the edges of the savanna and the marshland. Once its loud vireolike song is learned, the species is found to be more common than originally suspected. The Rufous-browed Peppershrike is most abundant near Balancán and Emiliano Zapata. On 17 April 1961, L. L. Wolf observed this species in the brushy country 12 miles south of Villahermosa. R. W. Dickerman obtained the first Tabascan record for this species by collecting a specimen at Cantemó on 9 May 1955. This specimen, a skeleton, is in the collection of the University of Kansas. The male taken near Balancán was singing loudly when it was collected, and it had enlarged testes.

As might be expected, the Tabascan specimen is a perfect intermediate between C. g. flaviventris and C. g. yucatanensis. The green of the back and the yellow of the under parts are slightly paler than typical flaviventris, yet darker than in Yucatan birds (yucatanensis). The pileum is gray as in yucatanensis. The rufous superciliary stripe is paler than in flaviventris, yet is as extensive as that shown by that race. Dickerman's cast skin from the skeleton at the University of Kansas appears to exhibit the same intermediate characters.

Family VIREOLANIIDAE

Smaragdolanius pulchellus (Sclater and Salvin)

Green Shrike-vireo

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 3 November 1961 (24.2) LB; ♀, 5 November 1961 (23.6) DB.

302 Cyclarhis flaviventris Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 5, 1842: 133 (Santa-Cruce in Mexico [=Veracruz, Mexico]).

This species is an uncommon permanent resident of the canopy of tall dense rain forest. Within Tabasco it is known only from the locality 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, but it is inconspicuous in the tops of the trees and is probably often overlooked. Two birds were observed on 2 November, one on 3 November, three on 6 November, and one on 8 November 1961. The two specimens collected at that locality were males without enlarged testes.

S. p. pulchellus is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

**Family STURNIDAE**

* Sturnus vulgaris Linnaeus  
  **Common Starling**  

On 14 December 1961, three individuals of this species were observed in semiopen pastureland 6 miles southwest of Sanchez Magallanes. These birds flew from one clump of trees to another and were extremely wary and did not allow an approach within shotgun range. A few days later a pair of starlings was seen flying over the town of Sanchez Magallanes. There are no other observations, to my knowledge, of this species in Tabasco; and, according to Miller et al. (1957: 219), it has not been recorded south of northern Tamaulipas.

**Family VIREONIDAE**

*Vireo griseus* (Boddaert)  
  **White-eyed Vireo**

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304 *Vireo* griseus *Sclater and Salvin, Ibis, 1859: 12 (Guatemala).*
The White-eyed Vireo is a very common winter visitant within Tabasco. It frequents the forest edges and thickets, and in the coastal districts it is often observed in the mangroves. I have records for this species within the State dating from 25 October to 17 April, and it has been reported from the following areas: La Venta; Sanchez Magallanes; Huimanguillo; Ocuapan; Chontalpa; Frontera; Miramar; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río San Pedro y San Pablo; and Tenosique. It was recorded most abundantly and regularly at the last locality. None of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

I refer Tabascan specimens to *V. g. noveboracensis*.

**Vireo pallens** Salvin

**Mangrove Vireo**

There are but four observations of this species within Tabasco, none of which were made in mangroves. On 13 April 1961 in the open marshland 17 miles north of Villahermosa, an individual was seen and collected from the scrub bordering the swamp. A few days later on 15 April, another was observed in a similar habitat 2 miles south of Villahermosa. On 17 April 1961, a Mangrove Vireo was seen in dense brush 12 miles south of Villahermosa. This habitat was somewhat drier than the locations of the two

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previous observations. In a small brushy woods bordering the Río Usumacinta at Emiliano Zapata, an individual of this species was observed on 23 April of the same year. The collected specimen had slightly enlarged gonads.

The collected bird is referable to *V. p. semiflavus*.306

**Vireo flavifrons** Vieillot

Yellow-throated Vireo

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ?, 17 March 1959 (16.3) DB.

Locally the Yellow-throated Vireo is a common winter visitant to the rain forest belt of Tabasco. On occasion it may be seen in patches of woods elsewhere, for example, the woods near Ocúşpan and the tall mangroves at Río San Pedro y San Pablo. Of the three rain forest areas, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique, this species was noted in greatest abundance and regularity at the last locality. There are records for the occurrence of the Yellow-throated Vireo within the State dating from 4 November to 27 March. The collected specimen did not have distinguishable gonads.

* *Vireo solitarius* (Wilson)

Solitary Vireo

On 23 March 1959, I saw a Solitary Vireo in a cacao grove at the rain forest edge 1 mile east of Teapa. On 29 March 1960, J. P. Gee (in litt.) observed an individual of this species among the cacao trees at the same locality. To my knowledge, these observations are the only records for

this vireo from Tabasco.

**Vireo olivaceus** (Linnaeus)

*Red-eyed Vireo*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ?, 27 March 1959 (15.7) DB; ?, 30 April 1959 (18.4) DB.

For a short period during the month of April, the Red-eyed Vireo is a common migrant in the rain forest belt of Tabasco. It has been recorded in the State between 27 March and 15 May and only from the vicinities of Chontalpa and Teapa. This species has never yet been reported in the fall, though it undoubtedly passes through the State at that season also. The bird taken on 27 March 1959 was obtained from a mist net. Neither of the two Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

**Vireo flavoviridis** (Cassin)

*Yellow-green Vireo*

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— Balancán: d, 28 April 1961 (15.4) DB. 11 mi. N Balancán: d, 4 May 1961 (17.2) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 75): Balancán, two, 11-17 May 1939; Reforma [La Reforma], four, 23 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], 28 May 1939; Boca del Cerro, 3 July 1939.

The Yellow-green Vireo is a very common summer resident of the semi-open country near Emiliano Zapata and Balancán. In that region it frequents the dry tropical evergreen and oak woods as well as trees scattered through the savanna. In May 1961 north of Balancán, this species was one of the more obvious and abundant birds of the area, and its song was a characteristic sound of the region. The earliest date, to my knowledge, for the arrival of this species in Tabasco is 23 April. I do not know when it departs in the fall. The two males, taken in April and May, were in breeding condition.
The race of this species breeding in Tabasco is \textit{V. f. flavoviridis}.\(^{307}\)

\textit{Vireo philadelphicus} (Cassin)

Philadelphia Vireo

\textbf{SPECIMENS.} LSUMZ. — 7 mi. W Teapa: ♂, 29 April 1959 (11.1) DB; ♂, 29 April 1959 (13.3) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 23 April 1959 (10.8) DB.

During the latter part of April and early May, the Philadelphia Vireo is a common migrant in the rain forest of Tabasco. At Teapa during the spring of 1959, this species was not observed until 27 April; and then, for a period of approximately a week, it was very numerous. On 29 April I counted thirty individuals in the same section of rain forest that had not produced this vireo a few days previously. The last bird was seen on 11 May. Two of these vireos were observed in the rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa on 14 April 1961. This migrant has been recorded only from the Chontalpa and Teapa regions. The specimen collected on 23 April was obtained from a mist net. None of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

\textit{Vireo gilvus} (Vieillot)

Warbling Vireo

\textbf{SPECIMEN.} LSUMZ. — 7 mi. W Teapa: ♂, 27 February 1961 (14.7) DB.

The specimen cited above, collected from a small patch of rain forest, represents the only record for the Warbling Vireo from Tabasco. The date perhaps indicates that this species winters sparingly in the State. The specimen is a female, and its ovary was not enlarged.

\(^{307}\) \textit{Vireosylvia flavoviridis} Cassin, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 5, 1851: 152, pl. 11 (Panama and San Juan de Nicaragua [=San Juan, Nicaragua]).
I cannot definitely identify this specimen to race.

**Hylophilus ochraceiceps** Sclater

Tawny-crowned Greenlet


This greenlet is not as common or as widespread as its close relative **H. decurtatus.** Unlike that species, the Tawny-crowned Greenlet frequents the lower story of undisturbed rain forest instead of the canopy. It has been recorded from the Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique regions but is common only around Tenosique. Wherever it occurs this species is a permanent resident, but none of the three specimens taken in February, March, and November were in breeding condition.

**H. o. ochraceiceps** is the race that occurs from southern Mexico to Panama.

**Hylophilus decurtatus** (Bonaparte)

Gray-headed Greenlet


The Gray-headed Greenlet is a common permanent resident of wooded

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areas throughout the State. Although it occurs in dry tropical evergreen woods and tall mangroves, it is more numerous in the rain forest belt. There are records for this species from the vicinities of Cárdenas, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Balancán, and Tenosique. It was recorded in greatest abundance and regularity at the last locality during November. This greenlet is an inhabitant of the treetops and usually travels through the forest in small groups. It will respond readily to "squeaking." A small band of these birds is capable of producing considerable racket. The males collected on 11 April and 19 March had enlarged testes. The remaining specimens, however, did not have enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to \textit{H. d. decurtatus}.

Family \textbf{COEREBIDAE} \(^{310}\)

\textbf{Chlorophanes spiza} (Linnaeus)

\textbf{Green Honeycreeper}

\textbf{SPECIMENS.} LSUMZ.— 7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 7 December 1961 (20.3) LB; ♂, 7 December 1961 (26.4) DB; ♂, 7 December 1961 (25.4) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♀, 3 November 1961 (20.0) LB; ♀, 3 November 1961 (no wt.) DB.


\(^{310}\)Beecher (1951: 274) has concluded from anatomical studies that the Coerebidae is composed of an artificial group. He proposes placing \textit{Coereba} in Parulidae and \textit{Cyanerpes}, \textit{Chlorophanes}, and \textit{Diglossa} in Thraupidae. In stating my views on the matter, I could do no better than to quote Skutch (1954: 438). He says: "Although I agree that as at present constituted the Coerebidae is a heterogeneous, unnatural group, I question, for example, the wisdom of placing a bird like \textit{Diglossa} among the tanagers, thereby making that fairly homogeneous family a less compact and natural group. After all, there comes a time in the course of evolution when an offshoot of one family has become so greatly modified that it merits separation into a distinct family. At present, it seems best to allow the family Coerebidae to rest in its admittedly unsatisfactory form, awaiting field studies of other genera, which added to the anatomical evidence will lead to a fuller understanding of natural relationships. Perhaps the Coerebidae should be split up;...."
During November 1961 near camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, this species was observed regularly in the upper levels of the dense rain forest. It was usually seen in small groups of five or six individuals. The Green Honeycreeper has been recorded from but one other locality, the rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa. On 25 October 1961, two individuals were seen at that locality; and, on 7 December of the same year, three birds were collected there. I assume that this species is a permanent, although uncommon, resident within the State. None of the specimens had enlarged gonads.

*G. s. guatemalensis*\(^{311}\) is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

**Cyanerpes cyaneus** (Linnaeus)

**Blue Honeycreeper**

SPECSIMENS. LSUMZ. — 10 mi. S Chontalpa: d, 22 March 1961 (11.7) EA. 7 mi. W Teapa: d, 4 April 1959 (14.5) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: d, 11 May 1959 (12.1) DB.

The Blue Honeycreeper is a common permanent resident of the rain forest belt, but it may be found sparingly elsewhere. It has been recorded from near La Venta, Ocualpan, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. This species was found to be most abundant in the area of the least disturbed rain forest, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. The Blue Honeycreeper frequents both the interior of the rain forest (usually the upper stories) and its fringes. It ordinarily travels through the forest in small groups and is rarely seen singly. On 21 March 1961, a flock of twenty individuals was noted in the top of a tall tree in the rain forest 2 miles south of Chontalpa. The males collected in April and May had greatly enlarged testes. The March male, however, did

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not have enlarged gonads.

*C. c. carneipes* ranges from southern Mexico to Panama.

**Coereba flaveola (Linnaeus)**

**Bananaquit**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 18 February 1961 (9.1) DB.

On 18 February 1961 at Teapa, I collected an individual of this species from the edge of the rain forest. This bird had come in response to my "squeaking." On 4 April 1961, another Bananaquit was seen at medium height in the rain forest 2 miles east of Teapa along the Tacotalpa road. There are no other records for this species from Tabasco. The specimen did not have enlarged gonads.

The Tabascan bird is referable to *C. f. mexicana*.

**Family PARULIDAE**

**Mniotilta varia (Linnaeus)**

**Black and White Warbler**


The Black and White Warbler is a very common winter visitant to the wooded areas of Tabasco. Although it may be found in almost any type of forested region (dry tropical evergreen woods; mangroves; fresh-water

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swamp forest), it is most abundant in the rain forest belt. At some localities this bird is the most common of the wintering wood warblers. There are records for its occurrence in Tabasco dating from 25 October to 4 May, and it has been listed from La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Macuspana, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. None of the LSUMZ specimens had enlarged gonads.

* Protonotaria citrea (Boddaert)

Prothonotary Warbler

On 17 December 1961, L. C. Binford saw at close range a Prothonotary Warbler in a low mangrove swamp along the Laguna del Carmen 3 miles east of Sanchez Magallanes. There is no other record of this species from Tabasco.

Helmitheros vermivorus (Gmelin)

Worm-eating Warbler


The Worm-eating Warbler is a common winter visitant in Tabasco, especially in the rain forest belt. It has also been recorded, however, from the mangroves at Sanchez Magallanes and Río San Pedro y San Pablo. I have observations of this species within the State dating from 2 November to 17 April, and it has been recorded from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Ocuapan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and Tenosique. It was found in greatest abundance and regularity at Tenosique. This species winters in the understory of the humid rain
forest, often being found upon the damp forest floor itself. Neither of the LSUMZ specimens had distinguishable gonads.

*Vermivora chrysoptera* (Linnaeus)

**Golden-winged Warbler**

There are only four observations of the Golden-winged Warbler within Tabasco. In 1959 at Teapa, I saw it on 28 April and 2 and 5 May in the dense brush at the rain forest edge. On 23 April 1961 at Emiliano Zapata, I observed an individual feeding in vine-tangled brush within a dry patch of woods at the edge of town. The Golden-winged Warbler probably does not winter in Tabasco but merely migrates in small numbers through the State.

*Vermivora pinus* (Linnaeus)

**Blue-winged Warbler**

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. S Teapa: ?, 13 March 1959 (8.6) DB.

The Blue-winged Warbler is an uncommon winter visitant in Tabasco. It frequents the forest edges and bushy areas near the woods. It has been recorded in the State on dates ranging from 2 November to 15 April. It has been recorded from the vicinities of La Venta, Ocúapan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, and Tenosique. On 3 November 1961, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, a Blue-winged Warbler entered, after dark and during a rainstorm, the thatched house in which we lived. By lantern light it actively fed on insects among the eaves and rafters. The Tabascan specimen did not possess distinguishable gonads.

*Vermivora peregrina* (Wilson)

**Tennessee Warbler**
This species is an uncommon winter visitant in the State and is usually seen in the upper stories of the rain forest or in tops of trees in the open. The Tennessee Warbler has been recorded in Tabasco on dates ranging from 3 November to 6 May and from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. It was found in greatest abundance and regularity at the last locality. On 10 November 1961, eight individuals were counted at that location. None of the specimens taken within the State had enlarged gonads.

**Vermivora celata** (Say)

Orange-crowned Warbler

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 3 mi. E Sanchez Magallanes; 17 December 1961 (8.7) LB.

J. K. McDonald (*in litt.*) reported seeing this species along the Río Puyacatengo at Teapa on 18 March 1959. On 17 and 18 December 1961 in the coastal scrub and mangroves at Sanchez Magallanes, one Orange-crowned Warbler was recorded each day. L. C. Binford collected the only specimen for the State on 17 December. There are no other Tabascan records for this winter visitant. The male taken in December did not have enlarged testes.

I refer the Tabascan specimen to *V. c. celata*.314

**[Vermivora ruficapilla (Wilson)]**

Nashville Warbler

On 26 April 1961, I saw a bird that was almost definitely of this species in a dense thicket in the dry, semiopen country at Balancán. I was

able to obtain only a brief glimpse of the bird as it went into the brush. Positive identification, therefore, was not possible; and, before this species is added to the Tabascan list, verification of its occurrence within the State should be obtained.

**Parula americana** (Linnaeus)

Parula Warbler


The Parula Warbler is an uncommon winter visitant to the State. It was found in greatest abundance (4 to 5 individuals) in the tall mangroves at Río San Pedro y San Pablo on 5 and 6 March 1961, but it may also be encountered infrequently at the rain forest edge and in low trees scattered through the open. I have records for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco dating from 4 November to 23 April, and it has been recorded from near Campo Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Emiliano Zapata, and Tenosique. Neither of the two LSUMZ specimens had enlarged gonads.

**Parula pitiayumi** (Vieillot)

Clive-backed Warbler

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.—8 mi. SW Ocuápan: d, 10 December 1961 (6.6) LB.

The specimen cited above was collected by L. C. Binford in a small patch of oak at the edge of a savanna on 10 December 1961, 8 miles southwest of Ocuápan. This specimen is the only record for this species from Tabasco. The bird did not have enlarged testes.
The specimen is referable to *P. p. inornata*315

[ *Peucedramus taeniatus* (Du Bus) ]

Clive Warbler

Du Bus' (1847: 104) type for *Sylvia taeniata*, located in the Brussels Museum, is labeled "Tabasco." As stated by van Rossem (1942: 213), it is highly unlikely that this montane form was actually taken within the confines of the State. Van Rossem further states that this specimen "was without doubt collected by Ghiesbrecht [in 1838 or 1839] in the same locality as the type of *Cyanocorax unicolor*." This species should not be included on the list of Tabascan birds without further verification of its occurrence within the State.

*Dendroica petechia*316 (Linnaeus)

Yellow Warbler

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— La Venta: ♀, 29 March 1961 (10.4) DB. Sanchez Magal- lanes: ♀, 12 December 1961 (11.3) DB. 2 mi. E Teapa ....


316 I do not believe that the chestnut-headed resident form (*bryanti*) is best considered to be conspecific with the migrant North American populations. Merging these populations certainly emphasizes the close relationship between these groups, but other important factors are obviously sacrificed. I am opposed to such a classification and feel that to sink into obscurity a biological entity as distinct as the "Mangrove Warbler" and to relegate it to a level equivalent to races differentiated solely by statistical analyses is unwarranted.

The resident form of this species (Mangrove Warbler) is an abundant bird in the low mangroves along the edges of the Laguna del Carmen near Sanchez Magallanes. I never saw an individual of this species in the tall mangroves at Rio San Pedro y San Pablo; however, B. B. Coffey (in litt.) reported seeing one at that locality on 23 May 1961. These are the first records for the "Mangrove Warbler" from Tabasco. The wintering races of the Yellow Warbler have been recorded within the state from 25 October to 16 May, and they are very widespread in distribution throughout the wooded areas, principally in the trees bordering the savanna and marshland, in the cocoanut groves, and in the mangroves along the coast. None of the LSUMZ specimens had enlarged gonads.

The resident form is the race D. p. bryanti.317 Miller et al. (1957: 245; 246) include Tabasco within the ranges of the following wintering races: D. p. amnicola,318 D. p. aestiva,319 and D. p. sonorana.320 Brodkorb (1943: 76) allocates his Balancán birds to aestiva, and Hellmayr (1935: 367): refers Teapa birds to sonorana. I refer my wintering specimens to amnicola.

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317 Dendroica Vieillotii, var. Bryanti Ridgway, Amer. Nat., 7, 1873: 606 (no locality [=Belize, British Honduras]).
319 [Motacilla] aestiva Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789: 996 (in Guiana, aestate in Canada [=city of Quebec, Quebec, Canada]).
320 Dendroica aestiva sonorana Brewster, Auk, 5, 1888: 137 (Oposura, Sonora, Mexico).
Dendroica magnolia (Wilson)

Magnolia Warbler


The Magnolia Warbler is an abundant winter visitant to the wooded areas of Tabasco, especially to the rain forest belt. During the winter months this species, along with the American Redstart, is one of the most obvious and abundant birds in the rain forested areas. An average day in the field would produce counts of approximately ten to twenty Magnolia Warblers, even when one leaves many birds uncounted for fear of duplication. There are records for this species in the State from 25 October to 12 May, but it undoubtedly occurs over a longer period. It is widespread in distribution within Tabasco and has been reported from a variety of habitats, for example, mangroves, scattered trees within the open savanna, dry tropical evergreen woods, and dense rain forest. This species is in drab winter dress until late April and early May, when it attains its spring plumage. None of the specimens collected in Tabasco had enlarged gonads.

* Dendroica tigrina (Gmelin)

Cape May Warbler

On 16 November 1961, L. C. Binford and I saw a male Cape May Warbler in a small tree in semiopen cultivated country 4 miles southeast of Tenosique. In response to "squeaking," the bird came within 10 feet of us and exhibited little fear. Unfortunately we were traveling at the time with shotguns packed away and therefore could not collect the bird. Miller et
al. (1957: 248), summarizing occurrences in all of Mexico, record this species only from the States of Yucatán and Quintana Roo.

Dendroica coronata (Linnaeus)

**Myrtle Warbler**


The Myrtle Warbler is an uncommon winter visitant, frequenting the short brush in the open savanna and coastal marshland of Tabasco. On 6 December 1961, I saw a small group in the brush and oak trees at the edge of a large marsh 8 miles south of Huimanguillo. On 8 and 9 December of the same year, this species was noted sparingly in the open savanna southwest of Ocuapan. On 12 December an individual was seen at the edge of a mangrove swamp 6 miles north of Campo Magallanes; and, on 18 December 1961, the two specimens mentioned above were collected from the coastal scrub and palms at Sanchez Magallanes. I have not recorded this species in Tabasco on any other occasion. Neither of the two birds collected in December had enlarged gonads.

I refer the Tabascan specimens to *D. c. coronata.*

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Dendroica virens (Gmelin)
Black-throated Green Warbler


This species is a common winter visitant to the forests of Tabasco. Although it is most numerous in the rain forest regions, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, and Tenosique, it has been recorded from the semiopen country near La Venta, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, and Balancán and from the tall man­groves at Río San Pedro y San Pablo. The dates of record range from 25 October to 6 May, but the real time of fall arrival is unquestionably earlier than the data show. Neither of the two specimens had enlarged gonads.

The LSUMZ specimens are referable to D. v. virens.322

* Dendroica occidentalis (Townsend)
Hermit Warbler

J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing a Hermit Warbler in full dress on 13 March 1961 south of Teapa. I know of no other record for this species from the State.

Dendroica fusca (Müller)
Blackburnian Warbler

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.—7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♀, 14 April 1961 (10.3) L3.

On 2 May 1959, a Blackburnian Warbler was seen in the top of a tall

tree in the rain forest at Teapa. Although the bird was shot and observed falling from the tree, the specimen was never located despite a long, arduous search. On 14 April 1961, L. C. Binford noted two individuals (one of which was collected) of this species in the rain forest canopy 7 miles south of Chontalpa. Binford reported that he also heard one of these birds singing. There are no other records for the Blackburnian Warbler from Tabasco.

**Dendroica dominica** (Linnaeus)

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—3 mi. W Miramar: ♂, 5 March 1961 (11.4) DB. 18 mi. NE Teapa: ♀, 3 April 1959 (10.3) DB.

The Yellow-throated Warbler is a common winter visitant along the Tabascan coast (Sanchez Magallanes; Miramar) in the coconut palms and occasionally the mangroves. Away from the coast I have seen it only at La Venta and Huastecas. At these localities it was observed in the tops of tall trees in the open. I have records for its occurrence within the State ranging from 12 December to 3 April, but undoubtedly the species is present over a longer period. Neither of the two specimens had enlarged gonads.

The Tabascan birds are referable to *D. d. albilora*.

**Dendroica pensylvanica** (Linnaeus)

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

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The exact status of this species within Tabasco is not certain. For a short time in the spring, it is a common migrant and has been recorded from 14 April to 7 May. At Teapa in 1959 the Chestnut-sided Warbler was not observed until 28 April, but from that date until 6 May it was one of the most common warblers in the area. After the latter date the bird was not seen again that spring. Near camp 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, this species was recorded on 3, 8, 12, and 15 November 1961, and one individual was seen 6 miles south of Chontalpa on 5 December of the same year. These records indicate that the Chestnut-sided Warbler winters sparingly in Tabasco, although the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 500) states that it winters from Nicaragua southward. It is possible, however, that the November and December birds were very late fall migrants. This species has been recorded at Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique and is usually observed in brushy sections and at the forest edge. The males collected on 29 April and 2 May had slightly enlarged testes, but the gonads of the remaining two specimens were not enlarged.

Dendroica castanea (Wilson)

Bay-breasted Warbler


To my knowledge, there are but two records for the occurrence of the Bay-breasted Warbler in Tabasco, the La Venta bird and the specimen that I collected on 27 February 1961. This bird was taken in a small patch of woods 7 miles west of Teapa. The specimen, in which the gonads were
indistinguishable, was in dull winter dress and was not very conspicuous in
the field, a factor that may contribute to the assumed rarity of the species
within the State.

**Dendroica palmarum** (Gmelin)

**Palm Warbler**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 4 mi. SW Ocuápan: ♀, 9 December 1961 (8.6) LB; ♀, 9
December 1961 (7.9) LB.

There are only three records for the Palm Warbler from Tabasco: one
bird seen 18 miles southwest of Ocuápan on 8 December; two birds collected
4 miles southwest of Ocuápan on 9 December; and one bird seen 18 miles
southwest of Ocuápan on 10 December 1961. This species was observed in
brush and small trees within the open savanna. According to Miller et al.
(1957: 255), the Palm Warbler has not been reported anywhere in Mexico except
on the Yucatan Peninsula and in Baja California. Paynter (1955: 253) states
that a specimen from Chichén Itzá was the only record of which he was aware
"from the interior of the mainland of Mexico or Central America." Neither
of the two specimens from Tabasco had enlarged gonads.

The Tabascan specimens are referable to *D. p. palmarum*.

**Selurus aurocapillus** (Linnaeus)

**Ovenbird**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 7 March 1959 (17.2) DB. 8 mi. SE
Tenosique: ?, 10 November 1961 (19.6) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Miller et
al. (1957: 256): Teapa.

\[32^\text{L} \text{[Motacilla] palmarum Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2, 1789: 951}
\text{(in insula S. Dominici [=Hispaniola]).} \]
The Ovenbird is a very common winter visitant that is found in greatest numbers on the floor of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods but is occasionally seen elsewhere. I have recorded this species within Tabasco on dates ranging from 25 October to 7 May and from the following localities: La Venta; Sanchez Magallanes; Huimanguillo; Chontalpa; Teapa; Tapijulapa; Balancán; and Tenosique. It occurred in greatest abundance at the last locality during November. Neither of the LSUMZ specimens had enlarged gonads.

I concur with Paynter (1955: 253) in considering this species to be best treated as monotypic.

**Seiurus motacilla** (Vieillot)

*Louisiana Waterthrush*


The Louisiana Waterthrush is an uncommonly recorded winter visitant to Tabasco, encountered most frequently in the rain forest belt along rocky streams or on the humid forest floor. This species is easily confused with the more abundant Northern Waterthrush and is, therefore, probably more numerous than the data indicate. Definite Tabascan records for this bird extend from 5 November to 14 April, and I have recorded it from Campo Magallanes (in fresh-water swamp forest), Teapa and Tenosique. Both the March and the April specimens had slightly enlarged gonads.

**Seiurus noveboracensis** (Gmelin)

*Northern Waterthrush*
The Northern Waterthrush is a common winter visitant to the stream banks and the damp floors of forests (including mangroves) throughout the State, but is more numerous in the rain forest section. It has been recorded in Tabasco on dates ranging from 30 October to 6 May and from the vicinities of La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. This species is easily confused with the Louisiana Waterthrush, and many Tabascan waterthrush records are unidentifiable specifically. Both LSUMZ specimens had slightly enlarged testes.

Eaton (1957: 238) studied the geographic variation in the Northern Waterthrush and came to the following conclusion: "In the light of these data, which show an unusual amount of individual variation and slight trends toward geographic variation, it would seem best to treat the species as monotypic. The identification of migrants and wintering birds, unless 'ultratypical,' would be highly subjective." I concur with Eaton's judgment.

**Oporornis formosus** (Wilson)

**Kentucky Warbler**

The Kentucky Warbler is a common winter visitant to the rain forests of Tabasco, where it frequents the understory and the moist floor. It is occasionally seen in small damp woods away from the rain forest near Ocuípan and Tenosique as well as in the vicinities of Chontalpa, Teapa, Macuspana, and Tenosique in the rain forest belt. At the last locality in
November 1961, the Kentucky Warbler was observed every day during my stay. I have records ranging from 25 October to 28 April. The February specimen did not have distinguishable gonads.

**Oporornis philadelphia** (Wilson)

**Mourning Warbler**


The Mourning Warbler is an uncommon migrant through Tabasco; but, as far as I am aware, it has been noted only during the spring migration (from 23 April to 22 May). The majority of the records were from the vicinity of Balancán, but an individual was seen at Emiliano Zapata on 23 April 1961. A bird that was probably of this species, but possibly an example of the unrecorded *O. t. tolmiei*, was observed momentarily at Teapa on 5 May. The Mourning Warbler is usually observed in dense brush at the forest edge. The Tabascan specimen did not have distinguishable gonads.

**Geothlypis trichas** (Linnaeus)

**Common Yellowthroat**


This species is a common winter visitant to the brushy areas within the savanna and open marshland of Tabasco. It is often observed in the tall grass and brush bordering the roads that traverse the State. I have records on dates ranging from 2 November to 10 May. The species has been recorded from the vicinities of the following localities: Sanchez Magallanes;
Ocuápan; Huimanguillo; Chontalpa; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río
San Pedro y San Pablo; Río Chico; Emiliano Zapata; Balancán; and Tenosique.
Neither of the two specimens had enlarged gonads.

Brodkorb (1943: 77) and Miller et al. (1957: 261) assign yelllowthroats
wintering in Tabasco to G. t. brachidactylus. I cannot positively iden­
tify my Tabascan specimens, but they are probably referable to that race.

Geothlypis poliocephala Baird

Ground Chat

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ,— 7 mi. S Huimanguillo: ♂, 15 March 1961 (16.3) EA. 17
mi. N Teapa: ♂, skeleton, 27 April 1959 (14.6) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 27
February 1959 (15.0) DB; ♂, 5 April 1959 (11.2) DL. 2 mi. E Teapa, Tacotal-
8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 3 November 1961 (14.3) MB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brod­
korb (1943: 77); Balancán, 10 May 1939; Tenosique, two, 15-16 June 1939.
Hellmayr (1935: 444); Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata]. Ridgway (1902: 689);
Montecristo [Emiliano Zapata].

In Tabasco the Ground Chat is a very common permanent resident within
its chosen habitat of open grassy savanna, weed patches, and marshland. It
may be found on occasion in clearings within the rain forest and at the for­
est edge. I have recorded this species from the following localities: San­
chez Magallanes; Huimanguillo; Ocuápan; Chontalpa; Villahermosa; Teapa;
Ciudad Pemex; Balancán; and Tenosique. All the specimens taken from Febru­
ary through April had only slightly enlarged gonads, except the male collec­
ted on 27 April 1959. This bird had greatly enlarged testes.

G. p. caninucha is the race of this species that occurs in Tabasco.

325 Trichas brachidactylus Swainson, Anim. in Menag., 1838: 295
(northern provinces of the United States).

326 Geothlypis poliocephala var. caninucha Ridgway, Amer. Journ.
**Icteris virens** (Linnaeus)

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 2 March 1959 (25.2) DB; ?, 25 March 1959 (20.7) DB; ♂, 21 April 1959 (no wt.) RM; ♂, 1 March 1961 (27.9) DB.


The Yellow-breasted Chat is a common winter visitor in the damp wooded sectors of Tabasco and is most abundant in the rain forest belt. It is sometimes found in the rain forest proper but is more commonly encountered in the thickets and brush at the forest margin. Although this species is shy and retiring, it is one of the first birds to respond to "squeaking," and its presence in any particular locale is not difficult to discover. I have recorded this bird within the State from 25 October to 29 April, and it has been observed in the vicinities of La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Cucapan, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, and Tenosique. The specimen obtained on 2 March 1959 was captured in a mammal trap, and the individual collected on 25 March 1959 was taken from a mist net. The April female had a slightly enlarged ovary, but the gonads of the remaining three specimens were not enlarged.

The Tabascan birds are referable to *I. v. virens.*

**Granatellus sallaei** (Bonaparte)

**Gray-throated Chat**


On 18 April 1960, D. M. Lay collected an immature male of this species 25 miles north of Balancán. On 19 February 1961, I collected a singing male

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327 *[Turdus] virens* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 171 (in America [=South Carolinas, 200 or 300 miles from the sea])...
from a dense thicket within the rain forest at Teapa. These two specimens represent the only records for this species from Tabasco. Both birds had slightly enlarged gonads.

The Tabascan birds are somewhat intermediate between the dark race *G. s. sallaei* and the lighter Yucatan population *G. s. boucardi*. In back and throat coloration, the adult male from Teapa is dark and therefore closer to *sallaei*. Since this feature is the character used by Ridgway (1902: 703) to differentiate the two races, I refer Tabascan specimens to that race. However, the red of the under parts is nearer that of the Yucatan race. A specimen of *sallaei* from Oaxaca has orange under parts, while the under parts of the Tabascan and Yucatan birds are a rose red.

**Wilsonia citrina** (Boddaert)

**Hooded Warbler**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: d, 9 March 1959 (10.2) DB; d, 18 March 1961 (10.3) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Miller et al. (1957: 266: Tabasco.

The Hooded Warbler is a common winter visitant to the humid wooded sections of the State, predominantly in the rain forest belt. On 17 December 1961, I saw an individual in the mangroves east of Sanchez Magallanes. I have records in Tabasco dating from 25 October to 1 April and from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Teapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, and Tenosique. The two males taken in March had slightly enlarged testes.

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328 *Setophaga sallaei* Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, 42, 1856: 956 (southern Mexico [=Córdova, Veracruz, Mexico]).

Wilsonia pusilla (Wilson)

Wilson's Warbler


The Wilson's Warbler is a very common to abundant winter visitant in the rain forest belt of Tabasco. It is sometimes found within the rain forest proper but is more commonly encountered at the forest edge, in weed beds, and on brushy hillsides. Although the species is very numerous in the Chontalpa, Tsapa, Tapijulapa, and Tenosique regions, I have not recorded it elsewhere. I have records for its occurrence within the State dating from 2 November to 13 May, but it probably occurs over a longer period.

None of the specimens from Tabasco had enlarged gonads.

The LSUMZ specimens are referable to the nominate race *W. p. pusilla*.

Wilsonia canadensis (Linnaeus)

Canada Warbler

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: 2, 28 April 1959 (9.6) DB; ♂, 3 May 1959 (7.4) DB.

This species has been recorded in Tabasco as a migrant from 14 April to 15 May. From 28 April to 15 May 1959, the Canada Warbler was the most abundant member of its family at Teapa. Between five and ten individuals per day were observed within the rain forest. On 14 April 1961, L. C. Binford saw two Canada Warblers, one bird in the rain forest 2 miles south of Chontalpa and the other in the same habitat 7 miles south of Chontalpa.

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330 *Muscicapa pusilla* Wilson, Amer. Ornith., 3, 1811: 103, pl. 26 (in the Southern States [Southern New Jersey]).
On 7 May 1961, I saw two individuals in the dry tropical evergreen woods 11 miles north of Balancán. I am not aware of any other records of this species from Tabasco. It probably, however, occurs during the fall migration also. The specimens, taken in April and May, had slightly enlarged ovaries.

*Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus)

**American Redstart**


The American Redstart is an abundant winter visitant throughout the wooded sections of the State but is more numerous in the rain forest belt. During the winter months this species and the Magnolia Warbler are among the most abundant and obvious birds within the rain forest regions. Worthy of note is the fact that the vast majority of the redstarts observed during the winter months consists of females and immature males. This species has been reported from the State on dates ranging from 25 October to 14 May, and it occurs throughout the wooded areas of Tabasco, as, for example, in rain forest, dry tropical evergreen woods, and mangroves. The March and April males had slightly enlarged testes.

I am in agreement with Paynter (1955: 259) in considering the American Redstart monotypic.

*Basileuterus culicivorus* (Deppe)

**Golden-crowned Warbler**
This is a common permanent resident of the heavy rain forest and brushy hillsides 8 miles southeast of Tenosique and was seen on twelve out of the fourteen days that I was present in the vicinity. I have not seen the Golden-crowned Warbler at any other locality, but L. C. Binford observed an individual at Teapa on 17 April 1961. Neither of the two specimens from Tabasco had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to the nominate race *B. c. culicivorus*.331

**Basileuterus rufifrons** (Swainson)

**Rufous-capped Warbler**

The Rufous-capped Warbler is a common permanent resident of brushy thickets, weed patches, and tall grass at the rain forest edge, but is rarely seen within the rain forest itself. In the area of the densest rain forest, the Tenosique region, I never recorded this species; but it was common in the vicinity of Teapa. It has also been observed sparingly at La Venta, Ocuápan, and Chontalpa. The male taken on 22 February had slightly enlarged testes, the 28 February male had enlarged testes, and the April male had greatly enlarged testes.

The yellow-bellied *B. r. salvini*332 is the subspecies that occurs in

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331 Sylvia culicivora Deppe, Preis-Verz. Säug. Vög., Mexico, 1830: 2 (Mexico [Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico]).

Tabasco.

Family PLOCEIDAE

*Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus)

House Sparrow

On 15 April 1961 in a park (Parque Juarez) in downtown Villahermosa, L. L. Wolf and E. T. Armstrong observed a female of this species. This observation appears to be the only record for the House Sparrow in Tabasco.

Family ICTERIDAE

Zarhynchus wagleri (Gray and Mitchell)

Wagler's Cropendola

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 7 mi. W Teapa: ♂, 27 February 1961 (113.6) DB; 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 8 March 1959 (209.2) DB; ♀, 27 March 1959 (106.7) DB; ♀, 2 April 1959 (107.9) DB; ♂, 12 May 1959 (205.8) DB; ♂, 14 March 1961 (220.1) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Hellmayr (1937: 2): Teapa.

Wagler's Cropendola is a very common permanent resident in hills covered with rain forest in the vicinity of Teapa. Here it was usually observed in flocks of fifteen to twenty-five individuals that were readily located by their call notes, which are reminiscent of gurgling or bubbling water. Despite its abundance at Teapa, I have not seen Wagler's Cropendola elsewhere in the State. Teapa colonies, comprising fifteen to twenty large pendulant nests, were usually located in one of the taller exposed trees in the rain forest. In the spring of 1961, nest construction began during the latter part of February and was largely completed by 10 March. The three males taken in March and May had greatly enlarged testes. The March and April females had enlarged ovaries, but the ovary of the February female...
was not enlarged.

The nominate form Z. w. wagleri\(^{333}\) occurs from southern Mexico to Honduras.

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**Gymnostinops montezuma** (Lesson)

Montezuma Oropendola

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—La Venta: $\varnothing$, 29 March 1961 (256.6) DB. 1 mi. SE Teapa: $\varnothing$, 28 March 1959 (223.7) DB. 3 mi. SE Tenosique: $\varnothing$, 3 November 1961 (237.7) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 78): 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], 24 May 1939; La Palma, 3 June 1939; Santo Tomás, 21 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, two, 2-3 July 1939.

This oropendola is a common permanent resident of the semiopen rain forest areas of Tabasco. In a locality where this species occurs, it is one of the more conspicuous avifaunal elements, and a colony of these birds is capable of producing considerable noise. Their call notes have been described by Weber (1945: 207) as sounding like a "rusty hinge."

The Montezuma Oropendola has been recorded from La Venta, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán, La Reforma, Tenosique, Boca del Cerro, Santo Tomás, and La Palma. L. R. Wolfe (in litt.) secured five nests from a small colony near Villahermosa on 15 April 1961. Two nests had two eggs each, and three nests had a single egg each. The female taken on 29 March was in breeding condition, but the other two LSUMZ specimens had only slightly enlarged gonads.

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**Amblycercus holosericeus** (Deppe)

Yellow-billed Cacique

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\(^{333}\)Cacicus wagleri Gray and Mitchell, Genera Birds, 2, 1844: 342, pl. 85 (no locality [=Cobán, Guatemala]).
This species, locally known as "Pico de Plata," is a common permanent resident of the dense forest undergrowth and brushy hillsides of Tabasco. It is found within the rain forest belt and the dry tropical evergreen woods of the State and has been recorded from near Teapa, Tapilulapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. Only two specimens, the female taken on 21 February and the male collected on 11 May, had enlarged gonads.

The subspecies occurring in Tabasco is *A. h. holosericeus*.

Scaphidura oryzivora (Gmelin)

Giant Cowbird

**PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 78): La Palma, two, 4-5 June 1939.

On only two occasions have I seen the Giant Cowbird in Tabasco. On 10 April 1959 at Teapa, J. K. McDonald and I observed a female within a nesting colony of Montezuma Cacatrices, a species that is often parasitized by the Giant Cowbird. McDonald (in litt.) had seen cowbirds at the same colony two days earlier. On 12 December 1961, L. C. Binford and I observed a male in a large tree in the open marshland 30 miles west of Cárdenas. Except for the two La Palma specimens (Brodkorb, 1943: 78), I know of no other records for this species from Tabasco.

Tabascan birds are assigned to *S. o. impacifus*.

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334. *Sturnus holosericeus* Deppe, Preis-Verz. Säug. Vögel, Mexico, 1830: 1 (Mexico [=Alvarado, Veracruz, Mexico]).

Tangavius aeneus (Wagler)
Red-eyed Cowbird


The Red-eyed Cowbird is a common permanent resident of open savanna, marshland, and pastureland throughout Tabasco. I have recorded this species from La Venta, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Teapa, and Balancán. It was noted most frequently near Balancán, where it is a common dooryard bird. On 17 April 1961, 12 miles south of Villahermosa, a male was observed courting a female by fluffing himself and fluttering in the air above her. The April and May males had enlarged testes.

The form occurring in Tabasco is the nominate race T. a. aeneus.336

[ Molothrus ater (Boddaert) ]
Brown-headed Cowbird


As pointed out by Brodkorb (1943: 8), the record by Rovirosa (1887: 365) for this cowbird is undoubtedly in error. Brodkorb has assumed that Rovirosa was referring to the common Red-eyed Cowbird.

Cassidix mexicanus (Gmelin)
Great-tailed Grackle


336Pesarocolus aeneus Wagler, Isis von Oken, 22, 1829: col. 758 (Mexico [=Laguna, Veracruz, Mexico]).

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The Great-tailed Crackle is an abundant permanent resident in the open marshland and along the river systems of the State. It is also quite common within the villages and open cultivated regions. On 14 February 1961, I counted 537 individuals of this species along Highway 180 between La Venta and Villahermosa. It is equally abundant between Villahermosa and Frontera. On 14 December 1961, I estimated the number of Great-tailed Grackles at Sanchez Magallanes to be approximately 400. In the dense rain forest sections such as the area southeast of Tenosique, or in the dry savannas and tropical evergreen woods such as those found north of Balancan, this species was not reported. There are records for this grackle from La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Cárdenas, Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Río Macuspana, Ciudad Pemex, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancan, and Tenosique. The March male had greatly enlarged testes, but the female taken in March had only a slightly enlarged ovary.

Tabascan birds are referable to *C. m. mexicanus*337

**Dives dives** (Deppe)

Melodious Blackbird

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: 2, 15 March 1959 (85.3) DB; 2, 16 March 1959 (91.5) DB. Balancan: c, 24 April 1961 (103.5) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 79): Balancan, four, 9-17 May 1939.

In Tabasco this blackbird is a common permanent resident of the brushy borders to the open savanna, cultivated countryside, and clearings at the rain forest edge. This species is very noisy, and wherever it is common,

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337*Corvus* *mexicanus* Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 1, 1788: 375 (Mexico [=Veracruz]).

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it is a very conspicuous avifaunal element. I have records for its occurrence from the vicinities of the following localities: La Venta; Chontalpa; Frontera; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río Chico; Emiliano Zapata; Balancán; and Tenosique. It was found in greatest abundance in the Balancán region, especially where cattle were numerous. I have observed Melodious Blackbirds walking on the backs of these animals and feeding upon engorged ticks. The three Tabascan birds taken in March and April had slightly enlarged gonads.

*D. d. dives*338 is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

**Icterus galbula** (Linnaeus)

**Baltimore Oriole**


The Baltimore Oriole is a common winter visitant to the rain forest belt but may be encountered elsewhere in small patches of woods. It is usually found not within the forest itself but in the semiopen country at the forest edge. I have records for the occurrence of this species within the State ranging from 25 October to 5 May, and I have observed it near La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, and Tenosique. The LSUMZ specimens did not have enlarged gonads.

Icterus spurius (Linnaeus)

Orchard Oriole

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: c, 2 March 1959 (19.1) DB; 9, 20 March 1959 (17.2) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Miller et al. (1957: 283): Teapa, 29 March-18 April; Frontera, 9 March; San Juan Bautista [Villahermosa], 20 February-7 March.

Locally the Orchard Oriole is a very common winter visitant to Tabasco. It is most abundant in the semiopen sections of the rain forest belt. In that habitat this oriole is usually found in flocks of ten to twenty-five individuals and often more. At Teapa on 2 March 1959, I counted 105 individuals. The species has been recorded from the State on dates ranging from 30 October to 2 May, but it undoubtedly arrives much earlier than the former date indicates. I have personal records for this bird from the following localities: La Venta; Huimanguillo; Chontalpa; Villahermosa; Teapa; Ciudad Pemex; Río Chico; Emiliano Zapata; and Tenosique. It was found in greatest abundance in the Teapa region. The gonads of the Tabascan specimens were not enlarged.

Icterus prosthemelas (Strickland)

Black-cowled Oriole


This oriole is a locally common permanent resident in Tabasco. It was found in greatest abundance in the brushland and semiopen savanna north of Balancán, but I have recorded this species from the rain forest edge and the clearings within the forest as well as the brushy borders of the open marshland of the State. I have seen the Black-cowled Oriole at Sanchez
Magallanes, Campo Magallanes, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Balancán, and Tenosique. The majority of the birds observed were in the immature plumage or at some stage between this plumage and that of the adult. The males taken on 2 March and 14 May had enlarged testes. The three females collected in March had slightly enlarged ovaries.

Tabascan birds are referable to the nominate form *I. p. prosthemelas*.339

**Icterus mesomelas** (Wagler)

Yellow-tailed Oriole

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— La Venta: δ, 28 March 1961 (46.8) DB; 1 mi. E Teapa: δ, 6 March 1959 (44.3) DB; δ, 3 April 1959 (47.9) DB; δ, 28 April 1959 (43.3) DB; 11 mi. N Balancán: 9, 12 May 1961 (39.7) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 80): 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], 26 May 1939; Provincia, 29 May 1939; Tenosique, 14 June 1939; Santo Tomás, 22 June 1939. Miller et al. (1957: 285): Frontera; Teapa; San Juan Bautista [Villahermosa].

At Teapa this species is the most common resident oriole. There it is found at the edges of the rain forest, in tall grass, weed beds, and thickets. Its monotonous song is a common sound of the Teapa region. The Yellow-tailed Oriole is not very numerous elsewhere in the State, but I have recorded it from the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, and Balancán. The University of Kansas has a specimen of this species collected by R. W. Dickerman on 7 May 1955, 10 miles east and 19 miles north of Macuspana. The male taken on 3 April was the only specimen that had enlarged gonads.

*I. m. mesomelas*340 is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

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339 *Xanthornus prosthemelas* Strickland, Contrib. Ornith., 1850: 120, pl. 62 (Guatemala).

**Icterus gularis (Wagler)**

Lichtenstein's Oriole


Within Tabasco this species is a very common permanent resident in its proper habitat: brushy edges to open marshland and dry savanna, cultivated areas, thickets, and forest edges. Throughout much of the State, especially the coastal sections, it is the most abundant of the resident orioles. There are records for the Lichtenstein's Oriole from the vicinities of Paraiso, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Frontera, Miramar, Villahermosa, Teapa, Macuspana, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. The testes of the April male were greatly enlarged. The ovary of the female taken on 28 March was enlarged. The gonads of the remaining specimens, however, were only slightly enlarged.

Tabascan birds are referable to *I. g. tamaulipensis.* The Balancán bird is the darkest specimen and may demonstrate an approach to the Yucatan race *I. g. yucatanensis.*

**Icterus cucullatus Swainson**

Hooded Oriole

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342 *Icterus gularis yucatanensis* Berlepsch, Auk, 5, 1888: 454 (Yucatan, Mexico).
The Hooded Oriole is a common permanent resident of the brushy edges
to the dry open savanna near Balancán and is sparingly encountered in the
brush and thickets at the margin of the open marshland of northern Tabasco.
It has been reported from near Sanchez Magallanes, Frontera, Villahermosa,
Huastecas, Jonuta, and Balancán. This species is quite common in the vil-
lage of Balancán; and, on 22 May 1961, a nest containing very small young
was discovered in a banana tree in the center of that town. The three males
had enlarged testes, but the April female had only a slightly enlarged ovary.

Tabascan specimens (especially the females) are quite typical in color-
ation of the dark race I. c. igneus. They have, however, shorter wings
than typical igneus, and the males are slightly paler than the Yucatan birds.
They probably, therefore, show an approach toward I. c. cucullatus.

Agelaius phoeniceus (Linnaeus)

Red-winged Blackbird

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 3 mi. S Villahermosa: c, 18 April 1959 (52.9) DB. 18
mi. NE Teapa: 9, 4 April 1959 (32.1) DB. Pato, 9 mi. N Balancán: c, 15
May 1961 (53.4) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Blake (1953: 520): Río Usu-
macinta. Brodkorb (1940a: 548): La Palma, five; Boca del Cerro, two. Brodkorb (1943:
80): La Palma, five 31 May-2 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, two, 2 July 1939.


344 Icterus cucullatus Swainson, Philos. Mag., 1, 1827: 436 (Temas-
caltepec, Mexico, Mexico).
The Red-winged Blackbird is a very common permanent resident of the open marshland of the State, especially along the Río Usumacinta and Río Grijalva systems. On 20 April 1961, along the latter river north of Villahermosa, I counted 300 individuals of this species. On 4 December of the same year in a swamp 5 miles southwest of Cunduacán, I observed 150 individuals. The Red-winged Blackbird has been recorded from the vicinities of Cunduacán, Cárdenas, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Huastecas, Macuspana, Ciudad Pemex, Río Chico, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, La Palma, and Boca del Cerro. The male taken in May had greatly enlarged testes, but the two April specimens had only slightly enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to A. ph. richmondi.345

Sturnella magna (Linnaeus)

Eastern Meadowlark

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 8 mi. S Huimanguillo: 9, 21 March 1961 (70.5) DB; d, 6 December 1961 (89.3) LB; 9, 6 December 1961 (65.8) DB. 13 mi. NE Teapa: 9, 3 April 1959 (72.2) DB; d, 1 May 1959 (90.4) DB. Pato, 9 mi. N Balancán: d, 14 May 1961 (95.6) EA; 9, 14 May 1961 (70.3) DB. PUBLISHED RECORD. Rovirosa (1887: 366): Santa Lucia; Chiquihuite; El Zopilote.

The Eastern Meadowlark is a common permanent resident of open grassy savanna within Tabasco. Although I have seen it at only a few localities, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Huastecas, and Balancán, it is a numerous and obvious species wherever it does occur. The Tabascan specimens ranging from March through May had enlarged gonads, but the gonads of the December birds were only slightly enlarged.

345 Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 58 (Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, Mexico).
According to Miller et al. (1957: 295), *S. m. mexicana* is the race of the Eastern Meadowlark that occurs in Tabasco. My specimens, however, do not completely agree with the measurements cited by Ridgway (1902: 362) for that race. In general they are somewhat smaller; and, although I refer them to *mexicana*, I am not thoroughly convinced that this allocation is correct.

Family Thraupidae

* Tanagra elegantissima* (Bonaparte)

Blue-hooded Euphonia

D. M. Lay reported seeing at close range on 19 April 1960 an adult male of this species in the woods 20 miles north of Balancán. The Blue-hooded Euphonia is a species that frequents highlands, but birds of higher altitudes often wander into the lowlands. I know of no other observation of this species in Tabasco.

*Tanagra affinis* Lesson

Lesson's Euphonia


In general distribution throughout the State, Lesson's Euphonia is an uncommon permanent resident; but in the tall, dense rain forest near my camp

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*Sturnella mexicana* Slater, Ibis, 3, 1861: 179 (Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico).

Frequently combined into the large *T. musica* complex.
8 miles southeast of Tenosique, this species was seen on eight dates during a fourteen-day stay. I have recorded it at only two other localities. It was observed occasionally in the rain forest at Teapa; and, on 20 April 1961, I saw a pair at the top of a tall, bare tree in the marshland near the junction of the Ríos Grijalva and Usumacinta. The male obtained in March had enlarged testes.

Tabascan birds are referable to *T. a. affinis*.348

**Tanagra lauta** Bangs and Penard

Yellow-throated Euphoria

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 1 March 1959 (17.5) DB; c, 8 March 1959 (14.1) DB; c, 10 March 1959 (13.6) DL; 2, 14 April 1959 (15.6) DB; c, 20 February 1961 (14.9) DB. Balancán: c, 23 April 1961 (12.4) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: c, 14 November 1961 (15.2) LB; c, 14 November 1961 (15.4) DB.

**PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 82): Balancán, two, 16 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforms [La Reforma], four, 24–25 May 1939; La Palma, two, 1–6 June 1939; Santo Tomás, two, 21 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, 4 July 1939. Hellmayr (1936: 52): Teapa, three.

The Yellow-throated Euphoria, the most numerous member of its genus in Tabasco, is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest belt and outlying areas. Here groups are usually observed in the forest canopy or in the tops of trees scattered through the nearby cultivated land. This species has been reported from La Venta, Cárdenas, Huimanguillo, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, La Reforma, Tenosique, La Palma, Boca del Cerro, and Santo Tomás. Specimens obtained in mid-March and in April had enlarged gonads.

*T. l. lauta*349 is the subspecies occurring from Mexico to Nicaragua.

348 *Tanagra (Euphonia) affinis* Lesson, Rev. Zool., 5, 1842: 175 (Realejo, Nicaragua).

Tanagra gouldi (Sclater)

Gould's Euphonia


Gould's Euphonia is a permanent resident of dense rain forest. It is a very common inhabitant of the Tenosique region, but is encountered only sparingly near Chontalpa and Teapa. At Tenosique this species is one of the first birds of the area to respond to the "squeaking" of an observer. Within the rain forest, it may be found from the tops of the tallest trees to the understory. The female taken in mid-March had an enlarged ovary. The November and March males did not have enlarged testes.

The race of this species that occurs in Tabasco is T. g. gouldi.350

Tangara larvata (Du Bus)

Golden-masked Tanager


In the rain forest belt of Tabasco, this species is a common to uncommon permanent resident. It is most often encountered in small groups in the mid to upper levels of the forest, usually near the forest edge. The Golden-masked Tanager is also frequently seen in the rubber groves, coffee fincas, and cacao plantations that border the forest. I have records from the

vicinities of Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. The female taken on 4 March had an enlarged ovary, but the remaining specimens, collected in February, March, and November, had only slightly enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to *T. l. larvata*.

**Thraupis virens** (Linnaeus)

Blue-gray Tanager

**SPECIMENS**. LSUMZ.—16 mi. S Villahermosa: 9, 12 March 1959 (31.9) DB.
1 mi. E Teapa: 2, 24 February 1961 (32.5) DB; 1, 1 March 1961 (35.2) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 82): Balancán, two, 10-13 May 1939; La Palma, 4 June 1939; Tenosique, 13 June 1939. Hellmayr (1936: 216): Teapa. Miller et al. (1957: 300): Balancán; La Venta; Teapa.

The Blue-gray Tanager is a common permanent resident of the rain forest belt and the dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. It is not found in the dense sections, but is a bird of the forest edge and the semiopen country nearby. Characteristically this species is seen in small groups of five to ten birds sitting in the tops of lone trees in forest clearings. The Blue-gray Tanager is a common dooryard bird in the village of Balancán. The April male had enlarged testes. The March birds had slightly enlarged gonads, but the ovary of the February female was not enlarged.

*T. v. diaconus* occurs from southern Mexico to Panama.

**Thraupis abbas** (Deppe)

Abbot Tanager

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351 *Calliste larvata* Du Bus, Esq. Ornith., 2, 1846: pl. 9 (Tabasco, Mexico).

352 *Tanagra (Aglaia) diaconus* Lesson, Rev. Zool., 5, 1842: 175 (Bealejo, Nicaragua).
The Abbot Tanager, like the Blue-gray Tanager, is a common permanent resident of the semiopen country near the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods. It is usually encountered in small groups of five to ten individuals sitting in the top of an exposed tree or in flight across a clearing. I have records for the occurrence of this species near La Venta, Chontalpa, Huastecas, Teapa, Balancán, Provincia, and Tenosique. None of the specimens taken in February and March were in breeding condition. The female collected in April, however, had an enlarged ovary.

Ranphocelus passerinii Bonaparte

Scarlet-rumped Tanager

Locally the Scarlet-rumped Tanager is a common permanent resident of low, dense brush such as that found along roadways and railroad rights-of-way. In this latter situation this species is quite common east of Teapa. The Scarlet-rumped Tanager has been recorded from La Venta, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, and Tenosique, but I found it more commonly at Teapa than elsewhere. The specimens collected in March and April had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referable to R. p. passerinii.353

353 Ranphocelus passerinii Bonaparte, Isis von Oken, 1833: 755 (in insula Cuba [=Mexico]).
Phlogothraupia sanguinolenta (Lesson)

Crimson-collared Tanager

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♀, 6 March 1959 (42.0) DB; ♀, 26 March 1959 (33.8) DB; ♂, skeleton, 16 March 1960 (41.4) DL; ♀, 23 March 1960 (41.5) JG; ♀, 23 February 1961 (43.8) DB. 3 mi. SE Tenosique: ♀, 8 November 1961 (44.8) MB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 83): Provincia, 30 May 1939; La Palma, 6 June 1939; Tenosique, 14 June 1939. Hellmayr (1936: 269): Teapa. Miller et al. (1957: 301): Teapa; La Palma; La Venta. Ridgway (1902: 121): Teapa.

The Crimson-collared Tanager is a common permanent resident of the dense thickets at the rain forest edge. It is easily overlooked because of the nature of its habitat, but it will respond readily to "squeaking." At Teapa this species frequents the dense brush and willows that overgrow the cornfields that have been cleared the previous year. As the natives clear another section of the rain forest and nearby brushland for cultivation, a former cornfield becomes overgrown with brush and willows to provide another patch of habitat for this species. I have personal records for the Crimson-collared Tanager only from the three humid rain forest districts, Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. Breeding evidently begins in March. The three birds collected in early and mid-March had only slightly enlarged gonads, but the testes of the male obtained on 26 March were enlarged. The November and February birds did not have enlarged gonads.

P. s. sanguinolenta is the subspecies that occurs in Tabasco.

Piranga rubra (Linnaeus)

Summer Tanager

Tanagra (Tachyphonus) sanguinolentus Lesson, Cent. Zool., 1831: 107, pl. 39 (Mexico).

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The Summer Tanager is a common winter visitant to the wooded sectors and outlying districts of Tabasco. It is more commonly encountered in the rain forest regions—Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique—but it has also been seen at La Venta, Sanchez Magallanes, Ocuipan, Macuspana, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. This species is not a bird of the dense forest, but is most frequently encountered near the forest edge. It is also often observed in rubber groves, coffee fincas, and cacao plantations that are located near the edge of the rain forest. I have records for the occurrence of this tanager within the State on dates ranging from 2 November to 29 April. The Tabascan specimens, taken in February, March and April, had slightly enlarged gonads.

The race of this species that winters in Tabasco is P. r. rubra.355

* Piranga olivacea (Gmelin)

Scarlet Tanager

J. K. McDonald (in litt.) reported seeing on 11 March 1959 a well-marked individual (wings dark blackish) of this species along the Rio Puya-catengo at Teapa. I know of no other observation of the Scarlet Tanager in Tabasco.

Piranga leucoptera Trudeau

White-winged Tanager

355Pringilla rubra Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 181 (in America [=South Carolina]).
SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 4 November 1961 (14.6) LB; ♂, 4 November 1961 (15.5) DB; ♀, 13 November 1961 (15.8) LB.

On 4, 6, 10, and 13 November 1961, this species was seen by L. C. Binford and myself in the tall trees at the edge of the rain forest 8 miles southeast of Tenosique. These birds were recorded on 4 November, but only a single bird on each of the other days. I know of no other observation of the White-winged Tanager within Tabasco. It is uncertain whether or not this species breeds within the State; it may be merely a wintering bird from higher altitudes. The testes of the collected males were not enlarged. The female, however, had a slightly enlarged ovary.

Tabascan specimens are referable to the nominate form P. l. leucoptera.356

*Piranga ludoviciana* (Wilson)

Western Tanager

On 13 March 1961, I observed a Western Tanager in a rubber grove at the rain forest edge near Teapa. The individual was in full adult male plumage except that the red of the head was somewhat dull. The bird was very shy and would not allow a close approach. The following day a Western Tanager, presumably the same bird, was observed in the top of a tall tree at the forest edge. These observations are the only records for the occurrence of this species within Tabasco.

Habia rubica (Vieillot)

Red-crowned Ant-tanager


Compared to the abundance of its close relative the Red-throated Ant-tanager, this species is of rare occurrence in the State. The Red-crowned Ant-tanager is, however, easily misidentified as its more abundant sibling and is hence probably more common than the few records indicate. It has been reported from the vicinities of Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique, but much more frequently at the latter two localities. This species is more commonly found in the higher levels of the rain forest than is its sibling. Willis (1960: 169) made an extensive study of the biology of these two species; and, concerning their feeding and foraging habits, he states: "The major foraging differences between the two species were that (though both were birds of the forest undergrowth) Red-crowns generally foraged higher than Red-throats and that only Red-throats regularly followed army ants (Eciton burchelli and Labidus praedator), picking up many of the insects flushed by the ant swarms." Both the March and the May males were in breeding condition. The female taken in November, however, did not have an enlarged ovary.

Tabasco lies within the range of H. r. rubicoides.357

Habia gutturalis (Sclater)

Red-throated Ant-tanager

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.—10 mi. S Chontalpa: c, 22 March 1961 (44.6) DB. 7 mi. W Teapa: c, 29 April 1959 (40.7) DB. 1 mi. E Teapa: c, 3 March 1959 (42.2) DB; c, 19 March 1959 (44.7) DB; c, 16 April 1959 (35.4) DB; c, 16 April 1959 (40.1) DB; c, 20 February 1961 (43.6) DB. 6 mi. N Tapijulapa: c, 11 March 1961 (43.4) EA. 11 mi. N Balancán: c, 3 May 1961 (33.5) DB. Balancán: c, 28 April 1961 (32.4) DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: c, 8 November 1961 (41.0) LB.


The Red-throated Ant-tanager is an abundant resident of the understory of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. This species may be found wherever humid fresh-water swamp forest exists along the river systems, but it is much more numerous in the rain forest belt. I have recorded this tanager from La Venta, Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Río San Pedro y San Pablo, Balancán, and Tenosique. Breeding evidently begins in March and April, as the birds collected during those months had enlarged gonads. The female taken on 29 April was carrying an egg almost ready to be laid.

I cannot satisfactorily distinguish the differences between H. g. salvini358 and H. g. littoralis359 in Tabascan birds. The subspecies salvini is an inland race, whereas littoralis is a coastal form. The adult male littoralis is purplish or rosy red and salvini is dark orange. Miller et

358 Phoenicopterus salvinii Berlepsch, Ibis, 1, 1883: 487, pl. 13 (Vera Paz, Guatemala).

359 Phoenicopterus littoralis Nelson, Auk, 18, 1901: 48 (Frontera, Tabasco, Mexico).
al. (1957: 308) cite the range of *salvini* in Tabasco as the extreme southern portion only (Teapa), and the range of *littoralis* as the remaining districts. After comparing specimens of *salvini* from San Luis Potosi and specimens of *littoralis* from British Honduras with my six adult male specimens, I have come to the following conclusions. The Tenosique, Tapijulapa, and Chontalpa birds are nearer *littoralis*. I have three males from Teapa, and these show much variation. One individual is very near *salvini*, another is intermediate, and the last bird is closer to *littoralis*. I cannot satisfactorily allocate the females and immature males to subspecies. The two Teapa birds, however, are darker with brighter throats (a character of *salvini*) than the Balancan birds.

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**Lanio aurantius** Lafresnaye

Black-throated Shrike-tanager


In the tall, dense rain forest southeast of Tenosique, this species was a common inhabitant of the canopy. The majority of the individuals observed during my visit to this locality in November 1961 were females and immature males. I saw this species at only one other locality. On 7 December 1961, I saw two shrike-tanagers in the tall, dense rain forest 7 miles south of Chontalpa. Previous workers have reported this bird from Teapa and La Reforma. None of the November and December specimens had enlarged gonads.
Eucometis penicillata (Spix)

Gray-headed Tanager

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 20 March 1959 (29.9) DB; 11 mi. N Balancán: ♀, 4 May 1961 (25.2) DB; Balancán: ♂, 29 April 1961 (23.1) EA.

PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 83): Balancán, 14 May 1939; Reforma [La Reforma], 22 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], two, 26-27 May 1939; La Palma, 5 June 1939; San Isidro, 9 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, 4 July 1939. Miller et al. (1957: 310): Balancán; Reforma [La Reforma]; La Palma; San Isidro; Boca del Cerro.

The Gray-headed Tanager is a common permanent resident of the understory of the dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. At places, however, this species extends its range into the rain forest belt. On 20 March 1959 at Teapa, I collected a specimen from a dense thicket within the rain forest. This was the only location, other than Balancán, where I saw a Gray-headed Tanager. The March and April specimens had only slightly enlarged gonads. The male taken in May had greatly enlarged testes. On 10 May 1961, 11 miles north of Balancán, an adult of this species was observed feeding a young bird.

E. E. pallida ranges from southern Mexico to Honduras.

Family FRINGILLIDAE

Saltator atriceps (Lesson)

Black-headed Saltator

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 3 March 1959 (no wt.) DB; ♀, 30 April 1959 (91.4) DB; ♀, 16 February 1961 (80.3) EA. Balancán: ♂, 29 April 1961 (74.4) DB; 8 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 8 November 1961 (85.7) LB.

PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1940a: 549): Balancán, two; Boca del Cerro; La Palma; Santo Tomás. Brodkorb (1943: 84): Balancán, two, 15-16 May 1939; La Palma, 2 June 1939; Santo Tomás, 21 June 1939; Boca del Cerro, 2 July 1939. Wetmore (1942: 107): Frontera.

360 Eucometis spodocephala pallida Berlepsch, Auk, 5, 1888: 451 (Yucatan, Mexico).
This species is a very common permanent resident of the rain forest and dry tropical evergreen woods of Tabasco. In contrast to the thicket-inhabiting *S. coerulescens*, the Black-headed Saltator frequents the tall, dense woods and their edges. It is usually encountered in noisy groups of five to ten birds, and hence it is very difficult to overlook. I have observed Black-headed Saltators in the vicinities of Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. I found them in greatest abundance, however, in the humid rain forest districts of Teapa and Tenosique. Although the species has been taken at Frontera, I have never personally seen it that near the coast. The March and April birds were in breeding condition, but the gonads of the November and February specimens were not enlarged.

Tabascan specimens are referable to the nominate form *S. a. atriceps*. The Balancán bird is almost devoid of any olivaceous tinge on the flanks and in this respect shows an approach toward the Yucatan race *S. a. raptor*.

*Saltator maximus* (Miller)

Buff-throated Saltator

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa; c, 25 March 1959 (50.9) DB; c, 3 April 1959 (47.6) DB; c, 14 April 1959 (49.3) DB; c, 15 April 1959 (48.5) DB; c, 24 February 1961 (52.1) DB; c, 14 March 1961 (48.2) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 84): La Palma, 3 June 1939; Tenosique, two, 14 June 1939. Heilmayr (1938: 9): Teapa, six. Miller et al. (1957: 325): Teapa; La Palma.

Within Tabasco the Buff-throated Saltator is a common permanent resident of the rain forest belt and its outlying areas. It was observed

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361 *Tanagra (Saltator) atriceps* Lesson, Cent. Zool., 1832: 208, pl. 69 (Mexico [-Veracruz, Mexico]).

occasionally in the dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. At
Teapa this species was seen side by side with S. atriceps in the tall rain
forest and with S. coerulescens in the dense brushland. Although S. max-
mus has been reported from La Venta, Ocuápan, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa,
Balancán, and Tenosique, it was much more frequently encountered at Teapa
than elsewhere in the State. The April specimens had greatly enlarged go-
nads and were certainly in breeding condition. The gonads of the February
and March birds, however, were only slightly enlarged.

I find it difficult to discern with any degree of certainty the alle-
ged distinctions between S. m. gigantodes and S. m. magnoides. Birds from Oaxaca belong to the former race, whereas those from British
Honduras are referred to the latter form. The pilea of Tabascan birds are
on the average lighter than those of Oaxacan birds and darker than those of
British Honduran birds. Birds from the latter region have more olive in
the pileum than Tabascan or Oaxacan birds. There seems to be, however, con-
siderable individual variation in this character, and an individual from
British Honduras has a pileum almost as dark as any from Oaxaca. British
Honduran birds also have lighter under tail coverts and flanks than Oaxacan
or Tabascan specimens. Heretofore, birds from Tabasco have been allocated
to gigantodes, and I follow that procedure, though there is an obvious ap-
proach in these specimens to magnoides.

363 Saltator gigantodes Cabanis, Mus. Hein., 1, 1851: 142 (Mexico).
364 Saltator magnoides Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 7, 1844: 41 (Mexico
[=Guatemala]).
Saltator coerulescens Vieillot

Grayish Saltator

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: $\delta$, 19 March 1959 (58.0) DB. 6 mi. N
Tapijulapa: 9, 11 March 1961 (54.7) DB. Balancán: 9, 24 April 1961 (58.8)
DB. 8 mi. SE Tenosique: $\delta$, 14 November 1961 (58.3) LB. PUBLISHED RECORDS,
Brodkorb (1943: 84): Teapa, 27 March 1900; Balancán, four, 12–16 May 1939;
La Palma, 5 June 1939. Miller et al. (1957: 326): Teapa; Frontera; Balancan;
La Palma. Ridgway (1901: 666): Teapa; Frontera.

The Grayish Saltator is a common permanent resident of brushland and
thickets throughout the State. It was found to be especially numerous in
the dry brushland in the vicinity of Balancán, and in that habitat it was
one of the more obvious birds of the area. Near Teapa this species frequents
the same low brush and thickets, found along the railroad right-of-way, as
the Scarlet-rumped Tanager. Within Tabasco Saltator coerulescens has been
recorded from the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, Frontera, Teapa, Tapin-
julapa, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, La Palma, and Tenosique. The ovary of
the April female was enlarged, and that of the March female was slightly
enlarged, but the gonads of the remaining specimens were not enlarged.

Brodkorb (1943: 84) assigns specimens from the eastern section of the
State (Balancán; La Palma) to S. c. yucatanensis365 the pale Yucatan form.
LSUMZ specimens from that area (Balancán; Tenosique), however, appear to
be typical of S. c. grandis366 the race that inhabits the remaining sec-
tions of Tabasco.

365 Saltator grandis yucatanensis Berlepsch, Verh. V. Intern. Ornith.
Kongr. Berlin, 1912: 1114 (Merida, Yucatan, Mexico).

366 Tanagra grandis Deppe, Preis-Verz. Sauz. Vog., Mexico, 1830: 2
(Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico).
Caryothraustes poliogaster (Du Bus)

Black-faced Grosbeak

SPECIMENS. LSUMZ. — 1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 19 March 1959 (44.6) DB; ♂, 27 March 1959 (46.1) DB. 6 mi. N Tapijulapa: ♀, 11 March 1961 (42.3) EA; ♀, 11 March 1961 (46.2) DB. PUBLISHED RECORDS. Brodkorb (1943: 85): Reforma [La Reforma], 22 May 1939; 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], nine, 24-28 May 1939; San Isidro, 10 June 1939.

The Black-faced Grosbeak is a common permanent resident of the tall rain forest, nearby cacao groves, and coffee fincas. This species is usually encountered in small wandering flocks that frequent the forest canopy and are more often heard than seen. This bird has been recorded from the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Macuspana, Tenosique, San Isidro, and La Palma. The male taken on 19 March had enlarged testes, but the remaining March birds did not have enlarged gonads.

C. p. poliogaster367 is the subspecies in Tabasco.

Richmondena cardinalis (Linnaeus)

Cardinal


Only at Balancán and in the dry brushland nearby can the Cardinal be considered a common Tabascan resident. Indeed, I have not even seen this species at any other locality in the State; though on 26 April 1960, D. M. Lay observed two individuals of this species along the Río San Pedro. The April

and May birds had enlarged gonads.

Brodtkorb (1943: 85) referred his specimens from Balancán to \textit{R. c. littoralis}.\textsuperscript{368} His two specimens from the same locality do not fit the measurements given by Ridgway (1901: 643) for that form, but rather those given for the smaller Yucatan race \textit{R. c. yucatanica}.\textsuperscript{369} It is very possible that eastern Tabasco is in a zone of intergradation between the two forms.

\textbf{Pheucticus ludovicianus} (Linnaeus)

\textit{Rose-breasted Grosbeak}

\textbf{SPECIMENS.} LSUMZ. — 7 mi. \(\text{E} \) Teapa: \(\varnothing\), 10 April 1959 (41.9) DB; 1 mi. \(\text{E} \) Teapa: \(\text{♂} \), 10 March 1959 (40.0) DB; \(\text{♂} \), 28 April 1959 (no wt.) DB; \(\varnothing\), 28 April 1959 (56.3) DB. 1/2 mi. \(\text{S} \) Balancán: \(\varnothing\), alcoholic, 17 April 1960 (no wt.) DL.

In general distribution throughout the State, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is an uncommon winter visitant. It may occasionally, however, become rather common locally, and when it is seen, it is usually observed in flocks at the edge of the rain forest. There are records for its occurrence within the State on dates ranging from 6 November to 28 April, but it has been observed only in the vicinities of Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique. None of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.

\textbf{Guiraca caerulea} (Linnaeus)

\textit{Blue Grosbeak}

\textbf{SPECIMENS.} LSUMZ. — 1 mi. \(\text{E} \) Teapa: \(\varnothing\), 17 March 1959 (27.3) DB; \(\varnothing\), 28 March 1959 (27.1) DB; \(\text{♂} \), 15 April 1959 (24.2) E4. \textit{PUBLISHED RECORD.}

Miller et al. (1957: 334); Teapa, 5 April.

\textsuperscript{368} \textit{Cardinalis cardinalis littoralis} Nelson, Auk, 14, 1897: 64 (Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico).

\textsuperscript{369} \textit{Cardinalis cardinalis yucatanica} Ridgway, Man. N. Amer. Birds, 1887: 443 (Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico).
In the brush and thickets bordering the rain forest at Teapa, the Blue Grosbeak is a common spring migrant. In April 1959 I saw it at that locality in flocks numbering as many as twenty to twenty-five individuals. There are records for this species from Tabasco dating from 24 February to 11 May. Although I did not record it during my visit to the State during the months of October through December, the Blue Grosbeak probably winters sparingly in Tabasco. Aside from Teapa, I have recorded this species from near Tapijulapa, Emiliano Zapata, and Balancán. None of the Tabascan birds had enlarged gonads.

Miller et al. (1957: 334) assign a Teapa specimen collected on 5 April to *G. c. interfusa*. I refer my specimens from the same locality, however, to the smaller form *G. c. caerulea*.

*Cyanocompsa parellina* (Bonaparte)

Blue Bunting


The Blue Bunting is a common permanent resident of the dense brushland and thickets bordering the dry tropical evergreen woods north of Balancán. E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman collected two males of this species at Frontera in 1900. Except for that record and the bird taken at Santo Tomás, the Blue Bunting has been recorded only from the municipio of Balancán.

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371. [*Loxia* caerulea* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, 1, 1758: 175 (in America [=South Carolina]).]
The male taken on 10 May had enlarged testes.

Tabascan specimens are referable to _C. p. parellina_.

**Cyanocompsa cyanoides** (Lafresnaye)

Blue-black Grosbeak

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—7 mi. W Teapa:♂, 28 March 1960 (no wt.) DL. 1 mi. E Teapa:♀, 6 March 1959 (34.6) DB; ♂, 18 March 1959 (31.1) DB; ♂, 16 April 1959 (31.6) DB; ♂, 18 February 1961 (30.5) EA. 3 mi. SE Tenosique: ♂, 5 November 1961 (31.8) MB. **PUBLISHED RECORDS.** Brodkorb (1943: 85): 15 km. N Reforma [La Reforma], 25 May 1939; La Palma, 6 June 1939; San Isidro, 6 June 1939; Santo Tomás, 24 June 1939; Tenosique, 27 June 1939.

The Blue-black Grosbeak is a permanent resident of the understory of the rain forest and the dense brush at its edge. Its abundance varies from locality to locality within the State. It was found to be common 8 miles southeast of Tenosique and was noted almost every day that I was present.

It was encountered somewhat less frequently in the vicinities of La Venta, Chontalpa, and Teapa and was occasionally seen in the undergrowth of the dry tropical evergreen woods near Balancán. The specimens collected in March and April had enlarged gonads.

_C. c. concreta_ is the race of this species that occurs in Tabasco.

**Passerina cyanea** (Linnaeus)

Indigo Bunting

The Indigo Bunting is a very common migrant and a somewhat less common winter visitant in Tabasco. During March and April 1959 at Teapa, this species was one of the more abundant birds of the area. The number of individuals counted per day during that period ranged between ten and 100. At Teapa the Indigo Bunting was found at the rain forest edge, in brushland, hedges, and cultivated land; but its favorite habitat was overgrown cornfields surrounded by rain forest. This species has been recorded in Tabasco on dates ranging from 6 November to 13 May and from the vicinities of Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Macuspana, Emiliano Zapata, and Tenosique (two November records). Neither of the two males taken during March and April had enlarged testes.

*Passerina ciris* (Linnaeus)

**Painted Bunting**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: ♂, 16 March 1959 (19.6) DB, w.71; ♂, 23 February 1961 (16.1) DB, w.73; ♀, 1 March 1961 (13.4) EA. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Hellmayr (1938: 112): Teapa.

The Painted Bunting is a common migrant through Tabasco, and there are also a few winter records. During the months of March and April 1959, this species was very common in the clearings, cornfields, and brushland bordering the rain forest at Teapa. In this habitat numbers of this bunting were observed in mixed flocks with the more abundant *P. cyanea*. I have records for the occurrence of the Painted Bunting within the State on dates ranging from 12 November to 5 May, and I have recorded it from the vicinities of Sanchez Magallanes (18 December), Ocuápan (11 December), Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Ciudad Pemex, Emiliano Zapata, Balancán, and Tenosique. None of the Tabascan specimens had enlarged gonads.
Miller et al. (1957: 339) allocate Tabascan birds to the duller western race *P. c. pallidior*.\(^{374}\) My specimens from Teapa are referable to that race on the basis of coloration alone. The length of the wing of the male collected on 16 March, however, is less than the minimum figure given by Hellmayr (1938: 112) for *pallidior*. Some of the Tabascan specimens may, therefore, be referable to *P. c. ciris*.\(^{375}\)

**Spiza americana** (Gmelin)

**Dickcissel**


The Dickcissel has been reported commonly in Tabasco from 20 April to 15 May. Although there are no fall records for this species from the State, it probably does migrate through the area at that season. In the spring of 1959 at Teapa, this bird was common for two weeks in the open fields and along the fence rows near town. On 23 April 1961, I saw a flock of approximately five birds in the open grassy fields near Emiliano Zapata. B. B. Coffey (*in litt.*) reported seeing eight Dickcissels at Río San Pedro y San Pablo on 23 May 1961. D. M. Lay reported a heavy concentration of migrating Dickcissels in the savanna north of Balancán on 20 April 1960. The two males obtained in late April and early May had enlarged gonads.


\(^{375}\) *Emberiza* Ciris Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758: 179 (Carolina [=South Carolinas]).
**Sporophila torqueola** (Bonaparte)

White-collared Seedeater


This species, one of the more obvious and numerous of Tabascan birds, is an abundant permanent resident of open fields, weed patches, meadows, and forest clearings throughout the State. It avoids only the heavily forested sections. The White-collared Seedeater begins to breed in March. The February specimens did not have enlarged gonads, but the male taken on 17 March had greatly enlarged testes.

*S. t. moreleti* is the form of this species occurring within the State.

**Sporophila corvina** (Sclater)

Black Seedeater

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—1 mi. E Teapa: 9?, 25 March 1959 (11.2) DB; d, 10 April 1959 (no wt.) DB. 1 mi. SE Teapa: d, 28 March 1959 (12.4) DB. **PUBLISHED RECORD.** Miller et al. (1957: 343): Teapa, two.

The Black Seedeater is an uncommon permanent resident of clearings, weed patches, and brushland, usually near the rain forest edge. Within Tabasco it has been noted from near Chontalpa, Teapa, Balancán, and Tenosique, but the majority of the records are from Teapa. The males taken on

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377 This population is often merged by recent authors with *S. aurita*, and some authors also merge the latter with *S. americana* of South America.
28 March and 10 April had enlarged testes, but the bird collected on 25 March did not even have distinguishable gonads.

**Oryzoborus funereus** Sclater

**Thick-billed Seed Finch**


In Tabasco the Thick-billed Seed Finch is an uncommon permanent resident of open cultivated country and forest clearing with brushy borders. On 12 May 1961, an individual was observed singing from the top of a palmetto in the open savanna 11 miles north of Balancán. Otherwise I have seen this species only in the open fields near Teapa. There is also a record from Frontera. The Thick-billed Seed Finch and the Black Seedeater can easily be confused in the field if the observer does not obtain a good view. Both the males collected in May were in breeding condition.

**Volatinia jacarina** (Linnaeus)

**Blue-black Grassquit**


The Blue-black Grassquit is a very common permanent resident of overgrown fields, weed patches, grassy meadows, and hedgerows within the State. I have records for this species from the vicinities of Huimanguillo, Ocuapan, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Balancán, Tenosique, and La Palma. This finch is seldom observed in full adult male plumage, but
is usually seen in one of the various intermediate stages between dull brown and purplish-black. On 1 April 1961, 7 miles south of Chontalpa, a male in molting dress was noted performing his courtship display. From a tall grass stalk he would flutter approximately 3 feet straight into the air and then return to his perch. The males taken on 27 March and in May had enlarged testes.

*V. l. splendens*\(^378\) occurs from Mexico to northern South America.

**Sicalis luteola** (Sparrman)

Yellow Grass Finch


I have found this species at only one locality within the State, 9 to 10 miles north of Balancan. The first flock of these birds was discovered on 13 May 1961 in dry, open grassland scattered with a few short palmettos. Their constant twittering, reminiscent of a flock of siskins or goldfinches, was a great aid in locating them. Two days later on 15 May, E. T. Armstrong and I counted ten Yellow Grass Finches in the neighborhood of Pato. All the specimens had enlarged gonads and were in breeding condition.

*S. l. chrysops*\(^379\) is the subspecies occurring in Tabasco.

**Arremon aurantirostris** Lafresnaye

Orange-billed Sparrow


Within Tabasco the Orange-billed Sparrow is a rarely recorded permanent resident of the humid rain forest undergrowth, often found near a swamp or small running stream. Its shy and retiring habits combined with the density of its habitat make it extremely difficult to observe. It will, however, respond to "squeaking," and doubtless, without the application of this method, I would never have seen the bird. It has been recorded only in the rain forest sections near Chontalpa, Teapa, and Tenosique. The March female had a slightly enlarged ovary, but the February male did not have enlarged testes.

The Tabascan specimens are referable to *A. a. saturatus*.

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**Arremonops rufivirgata** (Lawrence)

Olive Sparrow

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**Monroe (MS.)** has recently made a study of the *A. rufivirgata* complex. From the results of this study, the advisability of merging the various populations within this complex into one species has become questionable. Before a more definitive answer can be given concerning the matter, more field work and study of life histories is necessary.
The range of *A. r. verticalis* extends from the Yucatan Peninsula into eastern Tabasco.

**Arremonops chloronota** (Salvin)

Green-backed Sparrow


The Green-backed Sparrow is a very common permanent resident of wooded sections throughout the State but is more abundant in the rain forest belt. It is an inhabitant of the forest undergrowth and the thickets at the forest edge. I have records from the vicinities of Huimanguillo, Chontalpa, Frontera, Villahermosa, Teapa, Tapijulapa, Macuspana, Emiliano Zapata, Balancan, La Reforma, Tenosique, and La Palma. In the Balancan region the Green-backed Sparrow coexists with its sibling species, the Olive Sparrow, which prefers low, open brushland. I have, however, seen the two species in the same thicket. The specimens of *chloronota* collected from March through May had enlarged gonads.

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In a recent study on the Central American genus *Arremonops*, Monroe (MS.) has concluded that *A. chloronota* should not be merged with the conirostris complex, and in fact, that the similarity between the two groups may be merely superficial.
**Passerculus sandwichensis** (Gmelin)

Savannah Sparrow

**SPECIMEN.** LSUMZ.— 18 mi. NE Teapa: 9, 4 April 1959 (16.1) DB, w.67, t.49.

On 30 March and 3 and 4 April 1959, I saw a few individuals of this species in the open grassland at Huastecas, 18 miles northeast of Teapa. On the latter date I collected the only specimen for the State. J. P. Gee (in litt.) saw several birds at the same locality on 30 March 1960. I know of no other observations of the Savannah Sparrow within Tabasco. The Tabascan specimen is a female and had a slightly enlarged ovary.

The Tabascan specimen is referable to *P. s. nevadensis* on the basis of its coloration and measurements.

**Ammodramus savannarum** (Gmelin)

Grasshopper Sparrow

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.— 19 mi. NE Francisco Rueda: 9, 8 December 1961 (14.0) DL. 3/4 mi. W Balancán: 9, 11 April 1960 (14.5) DL.

On 11 April 1960, D. M. Lay collected the first specimen for the Grasshopper Sparrow from Tabasco on the grassy savanna west of Balancán. The only other records for the State are from the savanna between Ocuapán and Francisco Rueda: two birds 6 miles southwest of Ocuapán on 8 December; four birds 19 miles northeast of Francisco Rueda on 8 December; and two birds 1 mile southwest of Ocuapán on 9 December 1961. The female taken on 11 April had a slightly enlarged ovary.

I refer the specimen taken near Francisco Rueda to *A. s. bimaculatus*.

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*Ammodramus bimaculatus* Swainson, Philos. Mag., 1, 1827: 435 (Temiscaltipec [=Temascal-tepec, México, Mexico])
the dark tropical race. I consider the Balancán bird, however, to be the paler migratory form A. s. pratensis.386

**Aimophila rufescens** (Swainson)

**Rusty Sparrow**

**SPECIMENS.** LSUMZ.—7 mi. S Chontalpa: ♂, 1 April 1961 (34.3) DB; ♂, 7 December 1961 (37.1) LB.

There are only a few records for the occurrence of this species in Tabasco: four birds 7 miles south of Chontalpa on 1 April; one bird 7 miles south of Chontalpa on 14 April; four birds 7 miles south of Chontalpa on 7 December; four birds 4 miles southwest of Ocuápan on 9 December; and two birds 3 miles east of Ocuápan on 11 December 1961. All were observed in the brush and thickets in the margin between the rain forest and the savanna. In April Rusty Sparrows were often heard singing from the tops of tall grass stalks or small bushes. The April specimen, a male, had greatly enlarged testes. I assume that this species is a permanent resident of the State.

I refer the Tabascan specimens to A. r. pyrgitoides.387

**Aimophila petenica**388 (Salvin)

**Petén Sparrow**

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388 Webster (1959: 136) merges this species with A. botterii, an action that I oppose. I would never question the close relationship between these two populations, but I do question that this relationship is better demonstrated at the subspecific level. *A. aestivalis* could as easily be included within the complex; and certainly, if *A. cassini* were not sympatric with *A. botterii*, it too would have been merged long ago. It is interesting to note that the Tabascan population of *A. petenica* that is nearest the range of *A. botterii* contains the darkest birds.
The Petén Sparrow is a common permanent resident of the open grassy savanna of the State. It is common in the brush and tall weeds on the border between the rain forest and the savanna 7 miles south of Chontalpa, in the open grassland between Ocuápan and Francisco Rueda, and in the open savanna north of Balancán. The University of Kansas has a specimen collected by R. W. Dickerman 3 miles east of Macuspana on 3 May 1955. This specimen represents, to my knowledge, the only record from any locality between the Chontalpa and Balancán regions. The specimens taken in April and May had enlarged gonads.

Tabascan birds are referred to the nominate form *A. p. petenica*. The five specimens taken in the Balancán region, however, are quite distinct from those collected near Chontalpa and Ocuápan. The upper parts of these birds exhibit more brown and are lighter in general coloration than those of the blackish birds from the Chontalpa region. The specimen from Macuspana fits the Balancán group. Paynter (1955: 297) has already expressed the likelihood that a separable race of this species exists in the Yucatan Peninsula. It is highly possible that the Balancán population is the southwesternmost extension of a pale Yucatan form.

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Melospiza lincolnii (Audubon)

Lincoln’s Sparrow

SPECIMEN. LSUMZ.— 1 mi. E Teapa: 9, 19 March 1959 (15.6) DB.

This species is an uncommon winter visitant to Tabasco. It is usually found in the brush and thickets at the forest edge or along hedgerows in cultivated country. There are records for the Lincoln’s Sparrow from the State dating from 7 December to 17 April and from the vicinities of Francisco Rueda, Ocuapan, Chontalpa, Villahermosa, and Teapa. The female obtained in March had a slightly enlarged ovary.

I refer the single Tabascan specimen to M. l. alticola.390

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390Passerella lincolnii alticola Miller and McCabe, Condor, 37, 1935: 156 (Bluff Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, California).
ANALYSIS OF THE AVIFAUNA

There are 457 species of birds reported from Tabasco. Fourteen of these, however, are erroneously recorded or at least of very doubtful occurrence. Of the remaining 443 species, thirty-three are included on the Tabascan list solely on the basis of sight records. Therefore, there are 410 species for which there are Tabascan specimens extant. In the following analyses I have included the thirty-three reliable sight records. Of the 443 recorded species, there are 286 permanent and summer residents, 125 winter visitants and transients, and thirty-two stragglers or possible residents for which so few records exist that one cannot determine whether they are actually residents or not. The division is somewhat misleading because some species have both resident and wintering populations in Tabasco. If a species breeds within the State, I have included it in the list of permanent and summer residents.

Undoubtedly, further field work in the area will add a number of species to the Tabascan list, but the majority of these will probably be stragglers. Table IV gives a list of forty-one species that probably occur in the State but to date have never been definitely reported.

I have segregated the 286 permanent and summer residents (breeding birds) according to the major Tabascan habitat in which they are most often found. Many species may be encountered in more than one major habitat, and some are so widespread in their distribution that I have placed them in a separate category for species that occur throughout the State. Other species are difficult to categorize for various reasons. For instance,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Neighboring States</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Sula dactylatra</em></td>
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<td><em>Sula leucogaster</em></td>
<td>Campeche</td>
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<td><em>Ixobrychus exilis</em></td>
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<td><em>Aythya collaris</em></td>
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<td><em>Elanoides forficatus</em></td>
<td>Veracruz, Campeche</td>
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<td><em>Accipiter bicolor</em></td>
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<td><em>Buteo jamaicensis</em></td>
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<td><em>Micrastur ruficollis</em></td>
<td>Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche</td>
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<td><em>Falco columbarius</em></td>
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<td><em>Rallus limicola</em></td>
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<td><em>Pardirallus maculatus</em></td>
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<td><em>Porzana flaviventer</em></td>
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<td><em>Limosa fedoa</em></td>
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<td><em>Erolia fuscicollis</em></td>
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<td><em>Coccyzus erythropthalmus</em></td>
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<td><em>Otus guatemalae</em></td>
<td>Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche</td>
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<td><em>Pulsatrix perspicillata</em></td>
<td>Veracruz, Chiapas</td>
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TABLE IV—Continued

Ciccaba nigrolineata, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Chordeiles minor, Veracruz, Campeche.
Otophanes yucatanicus, Campeche.
Caprimulgus salvini, Veracruz.
Chaetura vauxi, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Campylopterus curvipes, Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche.
Paphosia helenae, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Doricha eliza, Veracruz.
Sclerurus mexicanus, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Laniocera rufescens, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Petrochelidon fulva, Chiapas.
Telmatodytes palustris, Veracruz.
Limnothlypis swainsonii, Campeche.
Vermivora ruficapilla, Veracruz, Chiapas.
Geothlypis flavovelata, Veracruz.
Icterus chrysater, Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche.
Piranga roseogularis, Campeche.
Tiaris olivacea, Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche.
Sayornis nigricans is not usually considered to be a rain forest bird, yet in Tabasco it has been recorded only in the rain forest belt.

Table V lists 155 resident species that are most often found in the rain forest belt. Although this region occupies a relatively small area within the State, fifty-four per cent of the breeding species are most often encountered there. In addition, a large percentage of these forms are restricted to the rain forest. This habitat offers a large variety of species but usually these forms are not observed in great numbers. The difficulties encountered in observing birds within the rain forest may be a factor contributing to this condition.

Table VI lists sixty-three resident species that are more often encountered in the marshland than any other habitat. This list includes not only the water birds that frequent the marshes, but also the passerine species that occur in the open countryside that surrounds these bodies of water. Only twenty-two per cent of the resident species of Tabasco are more frequently recorded in the marshland than elsewhere, despite the fact that the largest portion of the State is of this habitat. In contrast to the abundance of the rain forest species, relatively few species occupy the marshland, but they are usually observed in greater numbers. Seventy-six per cent of the Tabascan species are more frequently recorded in either the rain forest or marshland habitat.

Table VII lists thirty-six resident species that are most frequently recorded in the dry savanna. Thirteen per cent of the breeding Tabascan birds are more frequently encountered in this habitat than any other. A large percentage of the savanna birds are restricted to that habitat. One species, Scardafella inca, has never actually been recorded within the savanna areas as they are mapped in Figure 3. The small restricted area in
TABLE V
RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED IN THE RAIN FOREST BELT

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<td>Columba nigrirostris</td>
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<td>Zenaida asiatica</td>
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<td>Celeus castaneus</td>
<td>Lipaugus unirufus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centurus pucherani</td>
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<td>Veniliornis fumigatus</td>
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<td>Dendrocincla anabatina</td>
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<td>Dendrocincla homochroa</td>
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<td>Todirostrum sylvia</td>
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<td>Psilorhinus mexicanus</td>
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<td>Campylorhynchus zonatus</td>
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<td>Thraupis virens</td>
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<td>Thryothorus maculipunctus</td>
<td>Thraupis abbas</td>
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<td>Troglydites musculus</td>
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<td>Uropsila leucogastri</td>
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<td>Turdus assimilis</td>
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<td>Habia gutturalis</td>
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<td>Caryothraustes poliogaster</td>
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<td>Arremonops chloronota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Species</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podiceps dominicus</td>
<td>Rostrhamus sociabilis</td>
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<td>Podilymbus podiceps</td>
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<td>Bubulcus ibis</td>
<td>Polyborus cheriway</td>
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<td>Casmerodius albus</td>
<td>Falco femoralis</td>
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<td>Leucophoyx thula</td>
<td>Aramus guarauna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydranassa tricolor</td>
<td>Laterallus ruber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agamia agami</td>
<td>Porphyrylula martinica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nycticorax nycticorax</td>
<td>Jacana spinosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nyctanassa violacea</td>
<td>Charadrius collaris</td>
</tr>
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<td>Heterocnus mexicanus</td>
<td>Sterna albifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botaurus pinnatus</td>
<td>Amazona albifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nycteria americana</td>
<td>Amazona ochrocephala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jabiru mycteria</td>
<td>Nyctibius griseus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eudocimus albus</td>
<td>Chordeiles acutipennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajaia ajaia</td>
<td>Megaceryle torquata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dendrocygna autumnalis</td>
<td>Chloroceryle amazona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxyura dominica</td>
<td>Chloroceryle americana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathartes burrovianus</td>
<td>Eumomota superciliosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elanus leucurus</td>
<td>Synallaxis erythrothorax</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TABLE VI—Continued**

- *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
- *Pitangus sulphuratus*
- *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
- *Todirostrum cinereum*
- *Progne chalybea*
- *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
- *Iridoprocne albilinea*
- *Mimus gilvus*
- *Vireo pallens*
- *Geothlypis poliocephala*
- *Scaphidura oryzivora*
- *Tangavius aeneus*
- *Cassidix mexicanus*
- *Icterus gularis*
- *Agelaius phoeniceus*
- *Sporophila torquela*
- *Volatinia jacarina*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Species Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crypturellus cinnamomeus</td>
<td>Cyclarhis gujanensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buteo albicaudatus</td>
<td>Dives dives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buteo nitidus</td>
<td>Icterus prosthemelas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colinus virginianus</td>
<td>Icterus cucullatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burhinus bistriatus</td>
<td>Sturnella magna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scardafella inca</td>
<td>Saltator coerulescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbigallina minuta</td>
<td>Richmondena cardinalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapera naevia</td>
<td>Cryzoborus funereus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speotyto cunicularia</td>
<td>Sicalis luteola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorostilbon carvietii</td>
<td>Arremoneops rufivirgata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazilia cyanocephala</td>
<td>Ammodramus savannarum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazilia yucatanensis</td>
<td>Aimaphila rufescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanerpes formicivorus</td>
<td>Aimaphila petenica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centurus pygmaeus</td>
<td>Polioptila caerula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dendrocopos scalaris</td>
<td>Elainea flavogaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscivora tyrannus</td>
<td>Camptostoma imberbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elainea flavogaster</td>
<td>Cissilopa yucatanica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xanthoura yncas</td>
<td>Xanthoura yncas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cistothorus platensis</td>
<td>Xanthoura yncas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turdus grayi</td>
<td>Cistothorus platensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polioptila caerula</td>
<td>Turdus grayi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
which I found this species, however, was very similar to typical savanna, and I suspect that this dove will eventually be recorded from the savanna between Ocúapan and Francisco Rueda. Several Yucatan species reach the southwestern limit to their ranges in the savanna north of Balancán.

Table VIII gives a list of seven resident species that are more frequently recorded in the swamp forest than any other habitat in Tabasco. Although swamp forest covers a large area of the State, only two per cent of the resident species are more often encountered in this habitat.

Table IX lists five resident species that are most often recorded in the littoral. This list consists of less than two per cent of the Tabascan breeding species. Many species that occur within the State are restricted to the littoral (at least more frequently recorded here than elsewhere), but the vast majority of these species are winter visitants and transients.

Table X gives a list of five resident species that, as far as Tabasco is concerned, are more frequently recorded in the dry tropical evergreen forests than any other habitat.

Only three species are most frequently recorded in the mangroves. These three are listed in Table XI.

Table XII lists nine species that are so widespread in their distribution within the State that it is not possible to place them in any one of the major Tabascan habitats. Columba livia is also included in this table because it cannot be placed in any other category. This species occurs in a semiferal state in many parts of Tabasco. The two swifts, Strep­toprocne zonaris and Panyptila cayennensis, are also included within this table since they are observed only in flight and usually range over a large portion of the State. P. cayennensis, however, has been recorded on only two occasions, and it would be impossible to place it in any one of the habitats.
### TABLE VIII
RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED IN THE SWAMP FOREST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cochlearius cochlearius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairina moschata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aramides cajanea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heliornis fulica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthracothorax prevostii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroceryle aenea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryocopus lineatus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE IX
RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED IN THE LITTORAL HABITAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanus occidentalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fregata magnificens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematopus palliatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charadrius wilsonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larus atricilla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE X
RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED IN THE DRY TROPICAL EVERGREEN FOREST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriocharis ocellata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myiarchus yucatanensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vireo flavoviridis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucometis penicillata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyanocompsa parellina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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TABLE XI

RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED IN THE MANGROVES

Aramides axillaris
Coccyzus minor
Dendroica petechia bryanti

TABLE XII

RESIDENT TABASCAN SPECIES THAT ARE WIDESPREAD IN THEIR DISTRIBUTION AND CANNOT BE CLASSIFIED IN ANY ONE MAJOR HABITAT

Coragyps atratus
Cathartes aura
Buteo magnirostris
Columba livia
Crotophaga sulcirostris
Nyctidromus albicollis
Streptoprocne zonaris
Panyptila cayennensis
Centurus aurifrons
Tyrannus melancholicus
Myiopetes similis
Myiarchus tuberculifer
Of the 443 species that have been recorded from Tabasco, 125 (or twenty-seven per cent) are winter visitants or transients. Of these 125 species, forty-nine (or thirty-nine per cent) are water birds, of which the vast majority (thirty-five species) are of the order Charadriiformes. Members of the family Parulidae comprise a large portion of the wintering and migrating passerine birds. Thirty-five species of warblers have been recorded from the State, but only five (Dendroica petechia, Geothlypis poliocephala, Granatellus sallei, Basileuterus culicivorus, and Basileuterus rufifrons) occur as breeding birds. Six out of ten recorded vireos and five out of eight recorded swallows are known only as wintering or migrating birds.

The majority of the Tabascan breeding birds, particularly the rain forest species, are neotropical in origin. Most of the rain forest species are very widespread in distribution and occur over a large area of Central and South America. Of the 166 rain forest species that breed in the State, only seventeen (ten per cent) do not range as far south as Panama. Only one genus that occurs in the Tabascan rain forest (Uropsila) does not occur as far south as Panama. The invasion of the tropical regions of southern Mexico by species from farther south occurred in relatively recent times (Griscom, 1932), and few forms have had sufficient time to evolve and diverge. Thus the avifauna of Tabasco is very similar to that of the tropical lowlands of the neighboring areas, southern Veracruz, southern Campeche, and nearby Guatemala. Tabasco does not possess a single endemic form, species or subspecies, although the population of Thryothorus albinucha that occurs southeast of Tenosique may represent an unnamed race. This population, however, undoubtedly extends its range into nearby Guatemala, for I have collected specimens within 11 miles of the border. Several
typically Yucatan birds reach their southwesternmost range limits in the dry areas (savanna or dry tropical evergreen forest) of northern Balancán municipio. These species are *Agriocharis ocellata*, *Centurus pygmaeus*, *Myiarchus yucatanensis*, and *Arremonops rufivirgata*. *Thryothorus albinucha*, a Yucatan species of arid regions, reaches eastern Tabasco, but here it was found in rain forest. Another Yucatan species, *Cissilopha yucatanica*, has extended its range into all suitable areas as far west as the central section of the State.

The large majority of the winter visitant species within Tabasco are birds that breed in the eastern United States and Canada, but occasionally a species of western affinities finds its way into the State. In a few species both the eastern and western subspecies occur during the winter months. A large percentage of the species now classified as stragglers are birds that breed farther to the north and are common wintering species in other parts of Mexico. With additional field work, these species may be found to be regular winter visitants or transients within Tabasco and hence removed from the list of stragglers. As they are removed, other stragglers will undoubtedly be discovered to replace them.
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BIOGRAPHY

Delwyn Green Berrett was born on 27 July 1935 at Menan, Idaho, where he received his elementary education. He attended Rigby High School and graduated in May 1953. He entered Ricks College at Rexburg, Idaho, in September 1953 and remained at that school for three years. He entered Brigham Young University in 1956 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology in 1957. He received his Master of Science degree from the same university in August 1958. He began graduate study at Louisiana State University in September 1958 and became a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1962.
EXAMINATION AND THESIS REPORT

Candidate: Delwyn Green Berrett

Major Field: Zoology

Title of Thesis: The Birds of the Mexican State of Tabasco

Approved:

[Signatures]

Major Professor and Chairman

Dean of the Graduate School

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

[Signatures]

Date of Examination:

[Signature]