

GENERAL NOTES

Notes on some Chiapas birds.—During a trip to the state of Chiapas, México, in March and April 1965, information was obtained on several species of birds which supplements the "Check-list of the Birds of México" (1950, 1957. *Pacific Coast Avifauna* 29, 33) and the "Lista de las Aves de Chiapas" (Alvárez del Toro, 1964. Instituto de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas). Specimens cited are now at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, mainly in the form of skeletons. I am grateful to Robert W. Storer and Guy G. Musser for their contribution to this study. I also appreciate financial support from the National Science Foundation and permission to collect specimens from the Departamento de Conservación de la Fauna Silvestre.

Several species of birds were found on Cerro Mozotal (10,000 feet in the extreme southeastern Sierra Madre de Chiapas which had previously been reported in this state only from the central highlands. These include the Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassina*) (female, 5.5 grams) and the Black-capped Siskin (*Spinus atriceps*) (male, 12.5 grams; female, 14.5 grams), which were collected on 17 April. In addition, the Ocellated Quail (*Cyrtonyx ocellatus*) the flicker (*Colaptes cafer mexicanoides*) and the Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) were seen but not collected in the period 15–17 April. The siskin and quail were rare or uncommon in the pine-oak forest, while the other species were fairly common.

Three species reported only from the Atlantic lowlands were found on the Pacific slope. On 20 March a Blue-crowned Motmot, (*Momotus momota*) was collected (male, 100 grams) in cut-over tropical evergreen forest near Mapastepec, and the following day a Flint-billed Woodpecker (*Phloeoceastes guatemalensis*) was seen and heard in the same area. The White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) was collected (2 males, one 18 grams) between Unión Juárez and Cacahoatán in coffee plantations on the lower slopes of Volcán Tacaná. Both specimens of the tanager showed enlargement of the testes (3 × 4 mm) and appeared to be paired. They sang thin, reedy songs consisting of alternating short phrases and pauses, quite different from the full-throated utterances of some of the larger, more northern members of the genus.

Also of interest was an apparent migratory movement of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*) on 30 March near the Pacific Ocean near Pijijiápan. Hundreds if not thousands of these birds streamed past in small flocks or individually flying in a northwesterly direction at heights of 100 feet or less above the savanna. The flight lasted from dawn to mid-morning and terminated with the gradual disappearance of the birds from the area.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Division of Birds, U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, 26 May 1966.*

Egrets serving as "beaters" for Belted Kingfishers.—Many birds associate with another organism in order to secure prey disturbed by the activities of their associate, the "beater." A classic example is that of the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) and its many foraging associates, especially hoofed mammals (Meyerriecks, 1960. *Nat. Hist.*, 69:46–57). Rand (1954. *Chicago Nat. Hist. Mus. Fieldiana: Zoology*, 36 (1)) and Meinertzhagen (1959. *Pirates and Predators*. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh) provide numerous examples of this phenomenon. We had several opportunities to observe such a relationship between Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) and two species of egrets, the Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) and the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).

At 0830 on 22 December 1964, along the Hillsborough River, Hillsborough County,



Hubbard, John Patrick. 1967. "Notes on Some Chiapas Birds." *The Wilson bulletin* 79(2), 236–236.

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