

**Tutuaca / Bisoloachi Thick-billed Parrot Reserve
Chihuahua, México**

**Post-WFO/NMOS Meeting Field Trip
27 - 31 July 2003**

C: My Documents / Avian Chihuahua / Cebadillas 2003.doc



As part of the WFO / NMOS joint meetings in Silver City, David MacKay and I organized a post-meeting field trip to the Sierra Madre Occidental near Madera, Chihuahua to look for Thick-billed Parrots and Eared Quetzals (among other species). We had 12 paying customers, and David and I were the guides. David had been to the Ejido de Cebadillas site on three previous occasions, and this proved to be invaluable, as well as his Spanish-speaking skills. We took two 15-passenger vans (one was David's personal van and the other was loaned to us by Forrest Davis from High Lonesome Tours). Total cost was \$700 per person, of which \$125 went into the WFO publication fund (\$1625 total). I also donated \$125 to the fund, but did not get paid for the tour. David was the only paid leader, but all of my other expenses were covered (meals, gas, and hotels). Exchange rate was 10.2 pesos to the \$1 US.

27 July 2003: Silver City to Madera, Chihuahua

We departed from the Western New Mexico University parking lot at about 7:30 AM and drove south through Deming to the border crossing at Columbus with a few brief stops along NM Highway 11. We fueled up in Columbus and crossed the international border at Palomas at about 9:30 AM. We located a Bendire's Thrasher and one Eurasian Collared-Dove at the Diamond Shamrock gas station south of Deming. As we drove south from Palomas and then to the west toward Janos, the habitat gradually changed from Chihuahuan desert scrub to cultivated flood plain. At about noon we stopped for lunch in the apparently prosperous little town of Nuevo Casas Grandes. Mennonites initially settled in this area and many of the buildings and the local flavor of the community reflect the architecture and culture they brought with them from the eastern United States. After lunch we continued our drive south through the communities of Buenaventura, Zaragosa, and Gomez Farias to our destination at the Hotel Real del Bosque in Madera. This portion of the drive took us through dry thorn scrub and Chihuahuan Desert scrublands at the northern limit of the Sierra Madre Occidental. We also encountered the first of the monsoon rains that we would deal with during every afternoon of the tour. The total mileage from the border to Madera was 260 miles (taking 6-7 hours). After checking in to the Hotel Real del Bosque (\$40 U.S. per night), and as the rain receded, we drove a few kilometers southwest up into the outskirts of Madera and birded in some remnant forest and cultivated fields until about 7:30 PM. We ate dinner at the hotel restaurant where we did the bird list for the day and then retired at about 10:00 PM.

28 July 2003 : Madera to Ejido de Cebadillas

We left the hotel at about 6:00 AM and drove to about the same location as the previous evening along the road that eventually would take us to the Tutuaca / Bisaloachi Thick-billed Parrot Reserve at Ejido de Cebadillas. Fairly productive morning birding for several hours. At 7:30 AM we returned to the hotel, ate a quick breakfast and packed the two vans with most of the luggage going on the top of the vehicles. We departed at about 10:00 AM for the drive to the parrot preserve. About 5 kilometers from town we stopped at a residence along the road within the Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo. The grounds of the residence were planted with dozens of Red-hot Poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*), which were in full bloom and attracted a large number of Rufous Hummingbirds. This plant is a native of South Africa and obviously does quite well in this part of Mexico. To break up the drive and to give people's bodies time to recover, we made several

stops along the very rough road to the Ejido Cebadillas. The first was at the very scenic crossing over the Rio Sirupa (across the Puente Huapoca), and the second was at a late lunch-stop at about 1:30 PM in some oak and pine-covered foothills. It took about 6½ hours to complete the 64-mile drive – whew!! When we arrived at the Ejido Cebadillas, we were all eager to get out of the vehicles to stretch our legs and relax for a few moments before setting up camp. No sooner had we all set up our tents when it began to rain, at times quite hard. The rain lasted for about 30 minutes and afterwards we were able to explore the grounds and do a little birding before the sun set. We ate dinner in the kitchen of Doña Secóra (sp?) who is the matron of the Ejido Cebadillas. Meals were comida typical, with some dry stewed meat, refried beans, fresh salsa, fresh corn tortillas, and some sort of potato dish which seemed similar to scalloped potatoes (quite good however).

29 July 2003: Ejido de Cebadillas

David McKay was up early and a fresh pot of Pete's French Roast coffee was about ready when we got up at 5:45 AM. Even in the remote location we had chosen for our adventure, certain refinements and pleasures are not to be done without! One of the best cups of coffee I have ever enjoyed! We enjoyed a full day of birding from camp without the need for vehicles. After a quick jaunt near camp for some early birding, the group assembled to look for the Striped Sparrows that Ted Floyd had found the day before. Two adults and 1+ immature were easily seen at the edge of a very beautiful meadow which was covered with profusely blooming wildflowers. On the way to the meadow we watched the men of the Ejido put the finishing touches on a huge pig that they had slaughtered earlier that morning. I won't go into the gory details, but it was amazing how quickly they had reduced it into several piles of meat, fat and skin. They were cooking chicharones, some of which they shared with several brave souls in the group. Since I am not a big fan of chicharones, the entire effort was lost on me. I guess that I missed out (where was Tony Godfrey when needed?). All part of the local culture, flavor and the experience of rural life!!

We returned to camp and then took a 2-mile hike to a broad meadow below our camp to look for Eared Quetzal. Karen had a brief look at one when it responded to her imitations of its call but no one else in the group saw it. In the early afternoon we returned to camp for lunch and then most in the group hiked up into the forest above camp. We watched a flock of 25+ Thick-billed Parrots feeding on Douglas fir cones right over our heads. The birds seemed quite tame while feeding, but remained wary and ready to depart quickly if needed. I can now see why the parrots were so easily shot for food in the Chiricahua Mountains in the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century. We then split into smaller groups with some of us hiking farther up the mountain to about elevation 8,650 feet. There we found a pair of Mountain Trogons, but our study of them was cut short as it began to rain again. We quickly hiked down the mountain as the rain increased in intensity and by the time we reached our tents it was raining very hard, and continued as such for about an hour or more.

Because Doña Secóra's kitchen is where dinner was served, and is quite small, we had to eat in shifts. I took the late shift and enjoyed the same fare as we had the previous night. But I was also very fortunate to meet and listen to Don Bernardino and some others from the ejido (with

translation skills from David MacKay) discuss the early settlement of the ejido as well as the natural history of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Of note is that Bernardino can remember that at the age of 15 (he was born in 1947), it was not uncommon for he and his father to see between 1 and 3 Imperial Woodpeckers (*Campephilus imperialis*) in one day while on their way out to the main highway which links Hermosillo and Chihuahua City (Hwy 16) while getting provisions for their house. That places the dates at around 1962 when Bernardino saw the birds. Science has accepted the date of extinction for this species as late as 1958. Bernardino also spoke of wolves taking some of the cattle of the ejido “in the early days,” but that he does not remember ever seeing the grizzly bear (*Ursus horribilis*). He mentioned that the early populations of the Thick-billed Parrots were larger, and that the individual flocks were much more extensive than they are now, with groups of 50-60 seen commonly during the day. He (Bernardino) has huge concerns that their numbers may continue to decrease in much the same way that the population of Imperial Woodpeckers did.... He now only sees small flocks of parrots daily, and he does not want this bird to disappear as the “Carpintero imperial” did. Sobering and humbling to speak with a man who has seen a species of bird go extinct in his backyard while “on his watch.”

It rained through much of the night. My large L. L. Bean tent didn't leak, (I brought the large one thinking that I would share it with others, but everyone else had a tent), and it was wonderful to hear the rain on the nylon, since it was a soothing sound. Cool at night, probably in the low 50s.

30 July 2003: Ejido de Cebadillas to Madera, Chihuahua

By early morning it had stopped raining and we again arose hoping a fresh pot of coffee would be ready. However, during the heavy rain at night the stove got wet and the burners had been flooded. It took about a half-hour to get the burners hot enough to boil water. After a delayed breakfast of fresh fruit, pastries and cereal, we had a few hours to bird before loading back into the vans and heading out. Many of us returned to the meadow and I hiked about half way down the beautiful waterfall that drains the meadow and the watershed of the upper valley. With all of the rain from the previous night the falls were quite spectacular. We all returned at 10:00 AM to break camp and then left this beautiful place with all those Thick-billed Parrots at about 11:00 AM.

The drive out was no less arduous than coming in two days earlier, but a few birding stops along the way helped to ease the difficulty of drive. It is quite obvious that logging is still a very important part of the local economy. We pulled off to the side of the road or waited for several trucks loaded with cut timber several times on the drive out. Crossing the Puente Huapoca, we noticed that there was a dramatic increase in the volume of water flowing in the Rio Sirupa from the heavy rain of the previous day and night in the highlands. As we drove through the oak scrub and grasslands it was obvious from the number of dead trees that the area had suffered through a recent severe drought. The heavy rain we had experienced every day of the tour was important the long term survival of the habitat if indeed the habitat hasn't already suffered irreparable long-term damage compounded by the over-grazing through much of this part of Mexico. The rain had eased enough to allow limited birding in the clearing just south of Madera, but as we neared Madera at about 5:00 PM, it began to rain again. We arrived at the Hotel Real del Bosque at

about 7:30 PM where we enjoyed a hot shower and good meal at the restaurant before retiring at about 10:00 PM.

31 July 2003: Madera to Ejido Grande Cinco Milas to Silver City, N.M.

We arose early in order to be at the Ejido Grande Cinco Milas by dawn. Directions to the site are to drive about 10 kilometers to the north of Madera toward Nueva Madera. Take the turnoff from the paved highway to the west (left) and drive straight into Nueva Madera for a few blocks to a main street. Turn right (to the north) and then drive straight through town and into the foothills on a good dirt road from Nueva Madera. The area is quite accessible in about a half-hour's drive. Directions to the access road into the mountains are rough, so use intuition to get through town. Directions are necessarily somewhat nebulous....

Our target for the morning was Eared Quetzal, where our local guide Javier was aware of the presence of several nest cavities. Just after dawn we heard their calls but did not see them and after failed attempts at a couple of nests we finally saw a beautiful male fly from a cavity. We then drove farther up the mountain to look for some of the many Thick-billed Parrots that had been flying and calling overhead. The forest here is lush and prime habitat for the parrot. Of great scientific interest is that here the parrots had learned to nest in semi-colonial group in stands of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Concerted efforts to negotiate a conservation agreement to preserve the habitat with this Ejido are under way. Initial attempts have not met with success but local conservationists from the University of Mexico at Monterey are positive that in the long term, and with more education about the importance of preservation, they will succeed. This location with its large population of parrots is much closer and more accessible to birders in the United States than the site at Ejido de Cebadillas. It is only about 5 hours from New Mexico and not that much farther from Douglas, Arizona.

Since we still had a long way to go this day, we reluctantly returned to the hotel for breakfast, paid our bills, and continued the drive back to New Mexico. We arrived at the Western New Mexico University parking lot by 7:00 PM. I then said goodbye to the group, and Ted and I continued north to Albuquerque to try to make a connection with a Greyhound bus (missed it) in Albuquerque. Slept at the house for a few hours, and then got up at 4:00 AM to take Ted to the station (successful this time). Great trip, and I'm sure to go back again! David McKay put a lot of effort into planning and organizing this tour and we experienced a terrific adventure from his work. We got along really well, and I would like to do more trips with him at some point in the future.

Dave Quady provided the following GPS readings from his Magellan GPS unit (nice!!).

The courtyard of Restaurant Malmedy in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. GPS reading: 30 deg 25.709 min N, 107 deg 54.900 min W (4845 ft.)

The entrance to Hotel Real del Bosque in Madera: 29 deg 11.019 min N, 108 deg 8.010 min W (6904 ft.)

Our afternoon birding location outside Madera, on the road to Ejido Cebadillas: 29 deg 10.230 min N, 108 deg 9.486 min W (7185 ft.)

Our stop at 10:30 am to look at Rufous Hummingbirds at the Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo: 29 deg 9.557 min N, 108 deg 9.826 min W (7098 ft.)

Our lunch stop (shortly after 1:30 pm) on our drive to Ejido Cebadillas: 28 deg 50.541 min N, 108 deg 15.437 min W (7387 ft.)

Our stop along the road to the parrot preserve where we looked at a Thick-billed Parrot's nest: 28 deg 38.971 min N, 108 deg 16.221 min W (8278 ft.)

The stump in front of Mike San Miguel's and Dave Quady's tent at the Ejido Cebadillas (center of the camp). At this point we were exactly 185 miles south of the U.S. / Mexico International Boundary) as the parrot flies.... 28 deg 39.627 min N, 108 deg 17.560 min W (8412 ft.)

The saddle on the road above our camp at Ejido Cebadillas: 28 deg 39.662 min N, 108 deg 17.785 min W (8493 ft.)

The drainage where we watched Thick-billed Parrots at 9:20 am on July 29, 2003: 28 deg 39.540 min N, 108 deg 17.881 min W (8411 ft.)

The spot from which we viewed an Eared Quetzal nest (60 yards west of nest) on July 29, 2003: 28 deg 40.372 min N, 108 deg 19.001 min W (8201 ft.)

The logging road above the meadow that lies below the cabins from which we observed a pair of Mountain Trogons: 28 deg 38.985 min N, 108 deg 17.306 min W (8650 ft.)

The spot on the road along the meadow that lies below the cabins from which we observed Striped Sparrows: 28 deg 39.299 min N, 108 deg 17.303 min W (8345 ft.)

The elevation at the middle of the bridge over Rio Sirupa: 28 deg 59.868 min N, 108 deg 13.208 min W (4854 ft.)

The turn off along the highway north from Madera to the village of Socorro Rivera (name?) on the way to Ejido Grande Cinco Milas: 29 deg 16.616 min N, 108 deg 7.785 min W (7161 ft.)

The intersection in Socorro Rivera (?) where we turned north and drove into the forest toward the Eared Quetzal site: 29 deg 17.021 min N, 108 deg 8.566 min W (7184 ft.)

The spot along the forest road where there was an Eared Quetzal nest 50 yards across the creek: 29 deg 19.789 min N, 108 deg 11.121 min W (7721 ft.)

The border crossing at Palomas, Chihuahua heading north back into the USA: 31 deg 47.006 min N, 107 deg 37.667

min W (4074 ft.)

Annotated Species List Dave Krueper - (Chihuahua only)

Great Blue Heron *Árdea heródius tregánzai* Probable non-breeders were seen near Nuevo Casas Grandes and along the Rio Sirupa. Not known to breed in Chihuahua, but non-breeders are apparently widespread throughout northern Mexico during the summer. Two were seen just south of Nuevo Casas Grandes just as we were turning around from our wayward trek toward Casas Grandes.

Cattle Egret *Bubúlcus íbis íbis* Several seen flying across flooded agricultural fields near Janos and also south of Nuevo Casas Grandes.

Black Vulture *Córagyps atrátus* Fairly common near human settlements throughout the trip. Surprisingly, we had one at over 8500' elevation near Ejido Cebadillos.

Turkey Vulture *Cathártes áura téter* Fairly common throughout the trip, particularly in the lower elevation habitats and along the Rio Sirupa. Probably too early for migrants to be present.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocýgna autumnális fúlgens* Several small groups were seen just south of Nuevo Casas Grandes along the Rio Casas Grandes. Bill Howe was quite surprised at this, since there are so very few records for New Mexico and we were not too far to the south of the international border. There are no known breeding records from Chihuahua.

(“Mexican”) Mallard *Ánas platyrhýnchos díazi* Breeds from the Middle Rio Grande and the Gila River in New Mexico and far eastern Arizona south to northern Chihuahua. Several seen at the pond near Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo where we had stopped to view the many Rufous Hummingbirds which were feeding on the flowers of the red-hot poker.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accípiter striátus sútoni* Breeds from the east side of the San Luis Mountains on the New Mexico/Chihuahua border south through the highlands of Mexico to Michoacan, Jalisco, Coahuila and Veracruz. One was flying over the meadow about 2 kilometers below (west) of the camp at Ejido Cebadillos on 29 July 2003.

Cooper’s Hawk *Accípiter cóoperii* At the southern end of it’s breeding distribution in central Chihuahua, although populations are augmented with northern breeders in the non-breeding season. We had one near the Ejido Cebadillos near the waterfall (several observers).

Northern Goshawk *Accípiter gentílis atricapíllus* The 1957 AOU Checklist mentions this species only from Jalisco within Mexico during the breeding season. However, Howell and Webb show this species as being present along the spine of the Sierra Madre Occidental from Sonora/Chihuahua south to Nayarit; an additional disjunct population is found in Guerro. We had two sightings (possibly the same individual). Both sightings were on the west side of Ejido Cebadillos on 29 July 2003; sightings were separated by about two hours. The disjunct population of the Mexican race is slightly larger and darker than *A. g. atricapillus* of North America. This was the first time I had seen or heard this species from within Mexico.

Gray Hawk *Asturína nítida máximus* Breeds from southern Arizona (southern New Mexico ?), and southern Texas in the lower Rio Grande Valley south to Nayarit, San Luis Potosi, Nuevo Leon, and northern Tamaulipas. I saw one south of Nuevo Casas Grandes along the river as we were slowing to turn around near the river.

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogállus anthracínus anthracínus* The 1957 AOU Checklist records this subspecies as

breeding from central Arizona, southern New Mexico (although recently has been breeding as far north as just south of Albuquerque), and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas south through Mexico and Central America (except the Pacific coastal area from El Salvador southward) to northern Columbia. One was seen over the Rio Sirupa near the bridge on 29 July 2003.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus superior* Resident from southeastern California, Arizona, and southern New Mexico south to Baja California, Sonora and Sinaloa. The species complex ranges from the southern tier of states in the U.S. south through Mexico and Central America to central Chile and Argentina. Several seen both to the north and south of Nuevo Casas Grandes in Chihuahuan desertscrub habitat, and north of Janos on 27 July and 31 July 2003.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* Breeds from Alaska throughout western North America south to Baja California, Chihuahua, Durango, south-central Texas, and Coahuila. Up to four birds were along the highway on the drive southbound near Janos and then again to the south as we approached Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003. One was in the same area on the return trip on 31 July 2003.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* Breeds from northern Baja California (Sierra San Pedro Martir area southward), central Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas south through Mexico and Central America (locally) to northern South America (east to Surinam). One was seen on the dry mountain slopes about 30 kilometers south of Madera on 28 July 2003; another was seen well while at Puente Huapoca across the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis fuértesi* Breeds from northern Chihuahua to Brewster, Kerr County, and Corpus Christi in southern Texas and south to south-central Nuevo Leon. Several seen in the Janos and Nuevo Casas Grandes area on 27 and 31 July 2003.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius sparverius* Breeds from east-central Alaska south to northern Baja California, northern Mexico (probably to eastern Sonora and Durango to southern Texas. Several seen along Highway 2 to the northeast of Janos on both 27 and 31 July 2003.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo merriami* (?) Fairly common (locally) permanent resident in the mountains of central Colorado south through east-central Arizona to southern New Mexico, and then south from there into Oaxaca (ssp?). We heard "gobbling" several times outside of Madera, but we did not see any birds to confirm whether these individuals might have been truly wild or not.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus vociferus* Breeds from northwestern British Columbia south to southern Baja California, Guerrero, Guanajuato and Tamaulipas. Several individuals were seen flying over the highway south of Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* Not known to breed in Chihuahua, one was seen in a flooded field south of Janos on July 27, 2003 while heading south toward Madera.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* Nearly cosmopolitan in the New World. Seen in all human settlements on each day of the trip.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata fasciata* Breeds in the mountains from Utah and north-central Colorado south through the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico to the mountains of central Guatemala. We observed up to six individuals each day in the forests around Ejido Cebadillos 28 - 30 July 2003. There were also several more in the forest near the Ejido Grande de Cinco Milas north of Madera on 31 July 2003.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decemcostata* Rapidly expanding and breeding throughout the Lower 48 States, has been reported within Chihuahua only a few times. We had one or two individuals while filling with gas just north of the Columbus border crossing, and a single individual on telephone wires near where we stopped for lunch in Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003.

White-winged Dove *Zenáida asiática meárnisi* Breeds from southern Nevada, southeastern California, central Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south through Baja California and western and south-central Mexico to Puebla and Guerrero, possibly farther south in Central America. We saw a few on the drive from the international border to Madera on 27 July 2003, and again several on the return trip near Nuevo Casas Grandes and Janos on 31 July 2003.

Mourning Dove *Zenáida macroura marginélla* Breeds from southeastern Alaska, southern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Minnesota south to southern Baja California, southern Mexico, Puebla and central Texas, east to at least to central Arkansas. We saw at least 50 individuals were seen along the highways from the international border south to Madera on 27 July 2003. A few were in the lower elevations on the drive from Madera to Ejido Cebadillos, but were absent from the higher elevations.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Breeds from southern Arizona, New Mexico, southern Texas, and Tamaulipas south over the lowlands of Mexico on both coasts to northwestern Costa Rica and Nicaragua. We only saw one individual, a flyover along the highway south of Janos on 27 July 2003.

Thick-billed Parrot *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* The 1957 AOU Checklist mentions that it “breeds, so far as known, only in the mountains of Chihuahua and Durango; however, occurs widely in the mountains from central Sonora and east-central Chihuahua south to Jalisco, Michoacán, México (Popocatepetl), and central Veracruz (Cofre de Perote, Jalapa). Wanders sporadically, and at times abundantly, north to the mountains of south-central and southeastern Arizona (principally to the Chiricahua Mountains; also to the Dragoon, Galiuro, and Patagonia mountains), and southwestern New Mexico (Animas Mountains).”

This rare and endangered parrot was the primary focus of the tour, and we were not disappointed. We saw dozens daily while at the Ejido Cebadillos 28-30 July 2003. The first one was one in a nest cavity about 5 kilometers north of the ejido which one of the biologists had scouted out for us. We observed many more individuals in nest cavities, and also saw groups of up to 20 feeding on conifer cones on the slopes above our camp at the ejido. Another ten+ were seen in the forest at the Ejido Grande Cinco Milas near Madera on 31 July 2003. Bird Life International estimates that the total world population at between 1,000 to 4,000 individuals and declining due to severe and ongoing habitat destruction. Preservation of the 6,000-acre reserve at the ejido is a tremendous step forward to stem the decreasing population trend of this magnificent remnant of our cultural and natural history. This area is the core of the world's population. One of the prime purposes for this tour was to support the emerging ecotourism aspirations of the ejido. Efforts to preserve the beautiful forests of the Ejido Grande Cinco Milas are currently under negotiation. Not surprisingly, this was the only “lifer” for me on the trip.

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* Resident from Del Norte County and from the head of the Sacramento Valley in California, Nevada, southern Utah, Colorado, southwestern Kansas, central and eastern Oklahoma, western Arkansas, and northwestern Louisiana, south to Baja California (Cabo San Lucas), Michoacan, Puebla, and Veracruz. One was in a cultivated field adjacent to pine forest on the southern outskirts of Madera on 27 July 2003. This was about 6000' elevation, which seemed to be quite high in elevation for this species. Several were also seen along the road south of Janos and again south of Nuevo Casas Grandes in the arid Chihuahuan desertscrub habitats below the oak-pine zone (encinal).

Northern Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium gnoma gnoma* The 1957 AOU Checklist lists the breeding distribution of this subspecies from “extreme southern Arizona (Atascosa, Pajarito, Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua mountains) and the highlands of México from Chihuahua, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas (Galindo) south through Nayarit and Morelos to Guerrero (Omiteme, Venta de Zopilote), and Chiapas. There has been discussion on whether this subspecies warrants a full-species status (“Mountain Pygmy-Owl”), and it is currently under consideration by the AOU Checklist Committee. One was heard responding to our “toots” near the large meadow near the waterfalls at Cebadillas on several days (vocal only).

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia hypugaéa* Breeds from southern interior British Columbia (Okanagan), southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and central-southern Manitoba south through eastern Washington and Oregon, Rogue River Valley of Oregon, and California, including the Farallon Islands and Channel Islands, and Baja California, including coastal islands and Guadalupe Island, east to the eastern border of the Great Plains in

Minnesota, northwestern Iowa, central Kansas, Oklahoma, central Texas and Louisiana, south to at least central Mexico (southern limits of breeding range not known for certain). Winters south into western Panama. One was seen south of Janos on 27 July 2003 in abandoned agricultural fields.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis texensis* Breeds from interior central California, southern Nevada, extreme southwestern Utah, western and central Arizona, southern New Mexico, and southwestern and southern Texas south to about lat. 30° N. in Baja California, Guanajuato, Puebla, and Veracruz. At least 5 were seen foraging over the Chihuahuan desertscrub north of Janos on 27 July 2003.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor henryi* Breeds from southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado south through mountains of Arizona and New Mexico (except northeastern section) to the mountains of eastern Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango (Nombre de Dios), and western Texas. At least two were foraging over the agricultural fields along the southern outskirts of Madera on 27 and 28 July 2003.

Swift (species) *Chaetura* sp. One seen and heard chattering briefly above the hotel in Madera was quite unexpected. Since either *Chaetura* sp. is equally unlikely here, particularly at this time of the year, we did not feel comfortable with any identification beyond the genus level....

White-throated Swift *Aëronautes saxatalis saxatalis* Breeds from southern British Columbia, Idaho, western Colorado, New Mexico, and western Texas south to the Cape region of Baja California (including the Santa Barbara Islands and Guadalupe Island), Sinaloa, and Guanajuato. Several seen above the Rio Sarupa near the bridge on the way out from Ejido Cebadillas on July 30, 2003.

White-eared Hummingbird *Hylocháris leucóitis boreális* Breeds (or at least occurs) in summer from the Santa Rita, Huachuca, Santa Catalina, and Chiricahua mountains of southern Arizona, to the mountains of Sonora, Chihuahua, northern Sinaloa, and northern Durango; reported also from western Tamaulipas (Glaindo, Realito). Jon Dunn and I saw one briefly and heard chattering near the meadow below (west) of the camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003. There were not a great number of flowering plants present (monsoon season had just begun), but probably within another few weeks the landscape would look quite different....

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexándri* Breeds from southwestern British Columbia and northwestern Montana south through western Montana, central Idaho, western Colorado, New Mexico, and south-central and southwestern Texas to northern Baja California (Sierra San Pedro Martir, Cerro Prieto), Sonora, and extreme northwestern Chihuahua (San Luis Mountains). Several seen darting over the road near Janos in the Chihuahua desertscrub were the only ones noted.

Calliope Hummingbird *Calýpte cóstae* Breeds from central California, southern Nevada, and southwestern Utah south to the Santa Barbara Islands, southern Baja California including all near-shore islands, southern Arizona, and southwestern New Mexico to Sonora, including Tiburón and San Esteban islands, and Sinaloa. One or two were seen in the midst of the Rufous Hummingbird flurry at Casa de Dominguez-Trujillo several kms. southwest of Madera on 28 July 2003.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycércus platycércus* Breeds from the mountains of east-central California, northern Nevada, northern Utah, and northern Wyoming south to southeastern California, northeastern Sonora, Guanajuato, México, Distrito Federal, and southwestern Texas (Chisos Mountains). Several seen each day with a high count of 7 near camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* Breeds from southeastern Alaska, southern Yukon, east-central British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, and western Montana south through Washington and Oregon (chiefly west of the Cascades), to the Trinity Mountain region of northwestern California and southern Idaho. At least 40-50 birds were feeding on red-hot poker plants (introduced yard plant from South Africa?) at Casa de Dominguez-Trujillo a few kms. southwest of Madera on 28 July 2003. At least 25-30 were male Rufous, with some females and imm. males included. It is entirely possible that there were also some Allen's Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus sasin*) included in the feeding frenzy, but since fall-plumaged male Rufous Hummingbirds can often show varying amounts of green on the back, identification of Allen's can be problematic in the fall. We did not identify any clean male Allens in the

area. It would be interesting to have Tom Wood and Sheri Williamson set up some nets and monitor the numbers of Allen's which may migrate through the area.

Mountain Trogon *Trógon mexicanus* Howell and Webb (1995) consider this species to be a fairly common to common resident (1200-3500 m, rarely lower) in interior and on adjacent slopes from southern Chihuahua and southern Tamaulipas south to El Salvador and Honduras. One young (and in molt) male was located in the forest above camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 29 July 2003, (elevation 8500 feet). After much discussion and carefully studying the undertail pattern, Jon Dunn, Mike San Miguel, David MacKay and I felt that this was indeed a Mountain Trogon rather than an Elegant Trogon. The prominent white bands appeared to be widely spread rather than narrowly spread. Jon got some digital photos which he was going to show to Steve Howell to solicit his opinion.

Elegant Trogon *Trógon elegans canescens* Breeds from south-central Arizona (Santa Rita, Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains; possibly Santa Catalina Mountains) and extreme northwestern Chihuahua (San Luis Mountains) south on the western drainage, through the foothills and lowlands of Sonora, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa (Mazatlán). Several seen or heard along roadside stops on the drive from Madera to Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003. One was also below the falls at the ejido on 30 July 2003.

Eared Quetzal *Euptilóti neoxenus* Uncommon to fairly common but local resident (1800-3000 m) in interior and on adjacent Pacific Slope from Chihuahua to western Michoacan. One was singing from the forest above camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003. Everyone had great looks at a male as it flew from a nest cavity in the forest of the Ejido Grande northwest of Madera on 31 July 2003. A nearby female also responded to the male's alarm notes. This species is a late summer breeder (similar to Thick-billed Parrot) and since the summer monsoon season was in full swing, were vocalizing and territorial. One wonders how many of these birds are "out there" and also how far to the north within Chihuahua do they breed?"

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus formicivorus* Resident from Arizona, New Mexico, and west-central Texas southward to Oaxaca, Puebla, and Veracruz. Several seen each day while birding near Madera, at Ejido Cebadillas, and in the foothills below Ejido Grande. A maximum of 20 were located in the forest above our camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris cactophilus* Resident in the desert areas of southeastern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, central Arizona, central New Mexico, and western Texas, south to the Colorado River Delta in northeastern Baja California to about lat 29° N. in Sonora (including Isla Tiburón), Chihuahua, and northern Durango. One was located at a roadside stop north of Janos on 27 July 2003, and another was found at the roadside lunch stop in the Chihuahuan Desert south of Janos on 31 July 2003.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus icastus* Resident in the mountains of southeastern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico south through eastern Sonora, western Chihuahua and Durango to Jalisco and Zacatecas; east to southern Coahuila. One individual was in the remnant pine forest on the outskirts of Madera on 27 July 2003. An additional three or four were found in the forests surrounding agricultural clearings at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003 and three were in the pine forests at Ejido Grande near Madera on 31 July 2003.

Arizona Woodpecker *Picoides arizonae arizonae* Resident in the mountains of southeastern Arizona (west to the Graham, Santa Catalina, and Baboquivari mountains) and extreme southwestern New Mexico (Animas and San Luis mountains) south to east-central Sonora and west-central Chihuahua. One female was in dry oak-scrub habitat along the road into Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus collaris* Breeds from southern British Columbia east of the Cascade Mountains, southern Alberta, and southwestern Saskatchewan southward east of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon and through the greater part of California (except the northwestern section and the Mojave and Colorado deserts), including Santa Cruz Island, east to the western edge of the Great Plains, south to northwestern Baja California (western slope of the Sierra Juárez and Sierra San Pedro Mártir), eastern Sonora, Chihuahua, and western Texas, and at higher elevations to Surango and Zacatecas. At least 5-6 were seen every day of the trip, with a high count of 12 at Ejido Cebadillas on 29 July 2003. All were "Red-shafted" Flickers. To my knowledge there are no

records of Gilded Flicker for the state of Chihuahua.

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Fairly common to common resident (1200- 3500 m) on both slopes from east-central Sonora and southwestern Tamaulipas, and in the interior from central Mexico south to El Salvador and north-central Nicaragua. Locally descends to near sea-level in northwestern Mexico (Sinaloa to Jalisco) in winter; altitudinal migrant elsewhere, at least north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Discontinuous distribution south to Bolivia. At least two were at the edge of the road in the meadow near the waterfall outlet at Ejido Cebadillas on 29 and 30 July 2003. Their signature burry, two-note call “tchwee-tchwee” is a sweet reminder of birding in the high pine forests within the Sierra Madre Occidental.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax pallidiventris* Breeds in central and southeastern Arizona (White and Santa Catalina mountains, formerly near Prescott), southwestern New Mexico (Fort Bayard near Silver City), eastern Sonora, western Chihuahua, and northern Nayarit (Santa Teresa). Several present daily at Ejido Cebadillas with a high of 12 on 29 July 2003. Several others were seen at Ejido Grande de Cinco Milas to the north of Madera on 31 July 2003.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus veliei* Breeds from east-central Alaska, southern Yukon, southern Mackenzie, northeastern Alberta, northwestern and central Saskatchewan, and central Manitoba south to northern Baja California (Tijuana, Sierra San Pedro Mártir), eastern Sonora, and western Chihuahua and east to North Dakota, South Dakota (Black Hills), and central and western Texas (Kerr County). Winters from central Panamá (Canal Zone) south to Columbia Venezuela, Ecuador, Perú, and Bolivia. At least 5 were along the road to Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003 and two were at the camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 29-30 July 2003.

Pine Flycatcher *Empidonax affinis* Fairly common to common but often local resident (1600 - 3500 m) in interior and on adjacent slopes from Chihuahua and southern Coahuila to Guatemala. The apparent song differences north and south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec suggest that more than one species may be involved. At least two vocalizing individuals (males?) were at the edge of the clearing to the south and west of Madera on 27 July 2003. We found them to be fairly common near the camp at Ejido Cebadillas with as many as 8 seen daily. A nest with chicks was found on the back side of Ejido Cebadillas on the way down the hill into the large valley with meadows on 29 July 2003.

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis hellmayri* (?) Breeds from south-central Montana and western South Dakota south to eastern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, western Chihuahua, western Texas, northern Coahuila and Oaxaca. A nest with two chicks along the trail south of the Ejido Cebadillas was among six observed on 29 July 2003. At least eight were in the forest near the ejido on 30 July 2003. Two more were recorded at Ejido Grande de Cinco Milas on 31 July 2003.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons pygmaeus* Breeds from central and southeastern Arizona (Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains; formerly north to Prescott) and central western New Mexico to southwestern Chihuahua (Los Frailes, Pacheco, Laguna Juanota). At least four were in the remnant pine forest on the southern outskirts of Madera on 27 and 28 July 2003. Two were also near camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 28-30 July 2003.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* Resident from California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, central Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western and central Texas south to southern Baja California (San José del Cabo and Mirflores), central Chihuahua, and Colima. Two birds were at the Puente Huapoca over the Rio Sirupa on 27 and 30 July 2003.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya saya* Breeds from northeastern British Columbia, southwestern Mackenzie, northeastern Alberta, central Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba, central North Dakota, central South Dakota, east-central Nebraska, western Kansas, western Oklahoma, and west-central Texas south to southern California (rarely west of the coastal ranges), northern Sonora (Magdalena), northwestern Durango, central Zacatecas, and southeastern Coahuila. Several were seen along the main highway south of Janos and also approaching Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 and 31 July 2003.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus flammus* Breeds from southeastern California, southern Nevada,

southwestern Utah, central Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas south to southern Baja California (Cabo San Lucas) and Nayarit (San Blas). One bird was at the Puente Huapoca over the Rio Sirupa on 27 and 30 July 2003.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans vociferans* Breeds from central California, northern Arizona, southern Utah, Colorado, eastern Wyoming, southeastern Montana east to southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma and western Texas; south to northwestern Sonora (Hermosillo, Guaymas), Durango (El Salto), Jalisco (Ocotlán), Colima, Michoacán (Pátzcuaro), Puebla, and central Tamaulipas. About 25 birds were seen perched on electrical wires along the highway through the Chihuahua Desert north of Janos on 27 and 31 July 2003. At least 12, including a few juveniles, were foraging over the cultivated field on the southwestern outskirts of Madera on 28 July. A few were in the dry slopes on the drive north of Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003 on our return to Madera.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* Breeds from western Oregon, western Washington east of the coast ranges, southern British Columbia, southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, and western Minnesota, rarely to southern Wisconsin, southern Michigan, southernmost Ontario, and northwestern Ohio; south to northern Baja California (San Quintín Bay, Cerro Prieto), Sonora, northwestern Chihuahua (Casas Grandes area), southern New Mexico, west-central Texas, northeastern Oklahoma, east-central Kansas, and rarely to north-central Missouri. About 20-25 individuals were seen in the cultivated fields around Janos and other far northern Chihuahua locations during the drive south on 27 July 2003.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus sonoriensis* Resident from SE California (San Geronimo Pass), extreme southern Nevada, central Arizona, SW New Mexico, and western Texas (El Paso) south to NE Baja California, southern Sinaloa (Mazatlan area) and northern Durango. Two were along the roadside near Janos on 27 July 2003; one was hunting in the agricultural clearing to the southern and western outskirts of Madera on 28 July 2004.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus plumbeus* Breeds from eastern Nevada, northern Utah, SW Wyoming, SE Montana, SW South Dakota, and NW Nebraska south to central and SE Arizona and western Mexico (Sierra Madre Occidental in northern Sonora and northern Chihuahua); and through the mountains of Colorado and New Mexico to western Texas (Guadalupe, Davis, and Chisos mountains). Two to three were in the forest around camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 28-30 July 2003.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni stephensi* Resident from central Arizona and extreme SW New Mexico south through eastern Sonora (Sierra Pajaritos, Cerro Blanca, Yecora, Quiriego) and western Chihuahua (Pinos Altos and Jesus Maria) to northern Sinaloa and NW Durango. Winters from SE Arizona, central Chihuahua, and westernmost Texas (El Paso) south into Mexico. A family group of 4-5 birds was near camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 28-30 July 2003.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus swainsonii* Breeds from northern British Columbia, SW and central Mackenzie, northern Alberta, central Wyoming, southwestern South Dakota, and western Nebraska south to southern California west of the Sierra Nevada, central northern Oregon, central Idaho, southwestern Utah, central and southeastern Arizona (Santa Catalina and Huachuca mountains), southern New Mexico (Silver City, Cloudcroft), and western Texas. Winters from southern Sonora (rarely Alamos), Durango, Michoacan, Morelos, and Veracruz south to El Salvador. One was at the Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo about 5 kilometers southwest of Madera on 28 July 2003.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri macrolópha* Resident from southeastern Nevada, Utah, western and central Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, southwestern South Dakota, and western Nebraska south through Arizona and New Mexico to northern Sonora, Chihuahua, and western Texas. Common residents in the mountains of northern Chihuahua, we saw them every day. Up to 12 were at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. At least four were at the Ejido Grande to the north of Madera on 31 July 2003.

Western Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica woodhouseii* Resident from north-central and eastern Utah, southern Wyoming, western and southern Colorado, and western Oklahoma south to northeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, northern Chihuahua, and western Texas. Several seen flying over the dirt road near the Rio Sarupa on 30 July 2003.

Mexican Jay *Aphelocoma ultramarina arizonae* Resident from central and east-central Arizona and southwestern

New Mexico south to north-central Sonora and northern Chihuahua. Fairly common resident in the mountains through the trip, with 10-15 daily in and around the Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. At least five were seen or heard at Ejido Grande on 31 July 2003

Chihuahuan Raven *Córvus cryptoleúcus* Resident from southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, northeastern Colorado, south-central Nebraska, and western Kansas south to Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, and Tamaulipas. Common in the Chihuahuan Desert lowlands throughout the trip, with at least 25 birds on the drive to and from Columbus and Janos on 27 and 31 July 2003 (both directions).

Common Raven *Córvus corax sinuátus* Resident in the mountains from south-central British Columbia, northern Idaho, western and south-central Montana, and southwestern South Dakota south to southern California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Mexico, and through Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to northwestern Nicaragua. Fairly common but widely dispersed in the mountains of Chihuahua. A few were at the Ejido Cebadillas on 28-30 July 2003.

Tree Swallow *Tachycinéta bicolor* Breeds from north-central Alaska, across the northern treeline of Canada south to southern California, northeastern AZ, northwestern NM and northern MS, AL, and GA. Winters from about the US/ Mexico border south to Guatemala, Honduras and Cuba. One individual was seen flying over the cultivated fields southwest of Madera on 27 July 2003. Not known to breed within Mexico, this must have been an early migrant or a non-breeder which was over-summering in the area.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycinéta thalassína lépida* Breeds from Alaska south to northern Baja California, southern Arizona (Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains), and southern New Mexico (Sacramento Mountains and the Gila Wilderness area). Winters from southern California, Sonora, Chihuahua and Coahuila south to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. A single individual was flying over the agricultural fields southwest of Madera 27 July 2003; at least 6 were over the forest near our camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003 (probably breed in the area).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidópteryx serripénis* (monotypic). Breeds from west-central British Columbia across southern Canada and in all 48 Lower States south into northwestern and northern Mexico. Winters from northern and central Mexico south to Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica and western Panamá. One was seen on the way to Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003 near the Rio Sirupa.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochélidon pyrrhonóta mínima (melánogaster?)* Breeds from northern Alaska, across northern Canada, south throughout the United States (except for the Lower Colorado River Desert region and the southeast United States), and into Sinaloa and Nayarit. Winters in South America, probably to northern Argentina (1957 AOU Checklist was rather vague due to incomplete information). At least ten were feeding over the cultivated fields near Janos on 27 July 2003.

Barn Swallow *Hirúndo rústica erythrogáster*

Breeds from the Alaskan Panhandle across northern and central Canada and throughout the 48 Lower United States (except in the Colorado River Desert Region) south to Nayarit, Jalisco, and northern Veracruz. At least 20 were seen along the drive south from the international border to Madera on 27 July 2003; four were flying over the cultivated fields on the southern outskirts of Madera on 29 July 2003; an additional four were at the Puente Huapoca over the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003; several birds were roosting on the light fixtures at the hotel in Madera on 30 July 2003.

Mexican Chickadee *Poécile scláteri éidos* Resident from southeastern Arizona (Chiricahua Mountains) and southwestern New Mexico (San Luis and Animas mountains) south to northwestern Durango and southeastern Coahuila (Diamante Pass). The species is found as far south as Oaxaca, Guerrero and western Veracruz. This was probably one of the most common birds while in the mountains in and around Ejido Cebadillas. As a group, we easily observed over 100 different individuals everyday in the area from 28-30 July 2003. Also present in smaller numbers on 27 and 31 July 2003.

[I remember being surprised seeing this species in the mountains to the southwest of Monterrey (Nuevo Leon) and southeast of Saltillo (Coahuila) when we were viewing the Maroon-fronted Parrots at the Neotropical Ornithological

Congress in early October 1999. Seemed to be too far to the northeast within Mexico, but apparently it is commonly found in both the northern Sierra Madre Occidental and northern Sierra Madre Oriental.]

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi phillipsi* Resident from central and southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south through central and eastern Sonora and Chihuahua to northwestern Durango. One was seen along a riparian area in the oak woodlands before the Rio Sirupa on 28 July 2003; two were in a side canyon near the Puente Huapoca on 30 July 2003.

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps ornatus* Resident from central and southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico (San Antonio, Deming and Carlsbad), and southwestern and south-central Texas south to northeastern Sonora (Arispe) and Tamaulipas (San Fernando). One or two were seen darting across the road south of the Columbus border crossing and also while approaching Janos on 27 July 2003.

“Black-eared” Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus llóydi* Resident in the desert mountains from southwestern New Mexico (San Luis Mountains) and western Texas (Davis Mountains, Alpine, Chisos Mountains) to northeastern Sonora (headwaters of the Bavispe River), Chihuahua (Pinos Altos, Jesús María, Bravo), and northern Coahuila (Sierra del Carmen). Six birds were seen near Ejido Cebadillas on 29 July 2003.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis (nelsoni ?) (mexicana ?)* Taxonomic status unclear. The *S. c. nelsoni* subspecies is a resident in the Rocky Mountains from central Montana south to southeastern Arizona to north-central and northeastern Sonora, southwestern and south-central New Mexico (Sacramento Mountains), and central western Texas. The *S. c. mexicana* subspecies is resident from central eastern Sonora, central Chihuahua (El Carmen, Bustillos), central southern Texas (Chisos Mountains), and central Tamaulipas (Ciudad Victoria) south to central Guerrero (Chilpancingo), Puebla, and central Veracruz (Orizaba, Jalapa). We saw a few on every day of the trip with a maximum count of eight from the camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla chihuahuae* Resident from southern New Mexico and Coahuila southward into the Mexican Plateau (southern limits not described in the 1957 AOU Checklist). Fairly common to common each day while at the Ejido Cebadillas camp area. High count of 35 on 30 July 2003.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana albescens* Resident from the highlands of southeastern Arizona (Santa Rita and Huachuca mountains), and southwestern New Mexico (San Luis Mountains) south through eastern Sonora and western Chihuahua to Durango, Nayarit, and Zacatecas. Winters at lower elevations throughout its breeding range. This is the dark race. Common in the coniferous forests around Ejido Cebadillas with estimates of at least 18 individuals on 30 July 2003; also present in smaller numbers in the remnant forest on the southern outskirts of Madera and the Ejido Grande Cinco Milas on 28 and 31 July 2003.

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus* Breeds from central British Columbia and southern Alberta south to Baja California, central Chihuahua (Pinos Altos, Chihuahua), Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, and southern Tamaulipas. Withdraws from the northern portion of the breeding range during the non-breeding season to include California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, New Mexico and west Texas to the south. One at the Puente Huapoca near the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus* Resident from northern interior California (Mt. Shasta), Oregon and southern British Columbia south throughout the Rocky Mountains to southern Baja California, central Sonora (Isla Tiburón, Guaymas), northern Chihuahua (San Luis Mountains), and western Texas. One bird was singing from the rocky slopes at Puente Huapoca at the rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

Bewick’s Wren *Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus* Resident from eastern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and Colorado south to northern Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango and central Zacatecas. One was at Restaurant Malmedy in Nuevo Casas Grandes (30 degrees 25.709 minutes N, 107 degrees 54.900 minutes W; elevation 4845 feet) on 27 July 2003; two more were along roadside stops on the drive to madera on 27 July 2003; one on the dry slopes south of madera on 28 July 2003; one near the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

“Brown-throated” House Wren *Troglodytes aëdon cahóoni*

A bit of a taxonomic mess, but this subspecies is still recognized as a distinct form of the large House Wren complex (28 subspecies currently recognized by Clements). Resident from the mountains of southeastern Arizona (Rincon, Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains) south into northwest Mexico (northern Jalisco). Fairly common in the mountains surrounding Madera and near our camp at Ejido Cebadillas from 27-31 July 2003. Appeared to be brighter brown overall than the northern races, and the brownish coloration of the throat did not contrast noticeably from the breast and belly (at least not as noticeably as on the northern forms).

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus mexicanus* Resident in the central Mexican Highlands from Sonora and Chihuahua south to Michoacán, State of México, Puebla, and Veracruz. One was seen briefly as it flashed past the van on the drive along the riparian area while departing Ejido Cebadillas on 31 July 2003. This was the first time I had seen or heard this species from within México.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis fulva* Mainly resident from south-central Arizona (Santa Rita, Pajaritos, and Huachuca mountains) south along the Sierra Madre Occidental to Guerrero. Several seen on the hillsides overlooking the Rio Sirupa near Puente Huapoca on 30 July 2003.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana bairdi* Breeds from southern Nevada, central Utah, and Colorado (Estes Park, Lyons) south through the mountains to central western and southeastern Arizona (Hualapai Mountains, Prescott, Santa Catalina and Huachuca mountains), northern Sonora and Chihuahua, and western Texas. Common in the mid- to higher elevations throughout the trip, with at least 25 seen near Madera on 27 July 2003. Up to twelve were at the Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003, and a few were also seen at the Ejido Grande Cinco Milas on 31 July 2003.

Townsend’s Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi townsendi (calophónus?)* Breeds from central Alaska, throughout the western United States south to the San Bernardino Mountains in southern California, and into northwestern Mexico. Present every day in the forests above the camp at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003, with a high count of 8 individuals on 30 July 2003.

[Note: There are some differences in the descriptions of the breeding distributions between the 1957 AOU Checklist and the information presented by Clements in his *Birds of the World: A Checklist*. According to Clements, the subspecies in northern Chihuahua is *M. t. townsendi*, but the AOU Checklist does not note that it breeds south into México. The distribution of *M. t. calophónus* extends from southern Chihuahua south through Durango to Jalisco and Zacatecas. The ranges of *M. t. townsendi* and *M. t. calophónus* approach each other or overlap in southern Chihuahua at some point....)

Russet Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus occidentális oliváscens*

Permanent resident in the mountains of northwestern Mexico (extreme southern Sonora, northern Sinaloa, and western Chihuahua). Only observed (or heard) in the forests surrounding the Ejido Cebadillas; one on 29 July 2003; up to four on 30 July 2003.

[Note: it would be very interesting indeed to document how far north this endemic species breeds within northern Chihuahua and Sonora].

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus audubóni* Breeds in the Rocky Mountains of the southwestern United States south to southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, wintering south into Guatemala. One seen on 31 July 2003 in the high elevation forests near Ejido Grande Cinco Milas was quite unusual. Possibly an over-summering non-breeder, it was not heard singing or vocalizing in any way.

[Note: Howell & Webb do not record this species as being a breeder in Mexico; the furthest south it has been recorded as a breeder is in the Huachuca and the Chiricahua mountains, although appropriate habitat exists in northern Mexico both within Sonora and Chihuahua.]

American Robin *Turdus migratorius propínquus* Breeds from eastern British Columbia south throughout the Rocky Mountain and Coast Ranges into southern California, northern Sonora and northern Chihuahua. Common and seen every day of the tour. At least 20 were in the forest remnant on the outskirts southwest of Madera on 27

July 2003; twelve were there on 28 July 2003; high count of 20 at Ejido Cebadillas on 29 July 2003; at least four more at Ejido Grande Cinco Milas on 31 July 2003.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos leucópterus* This widespread species breeds from southwest Canada south to southern Baja California and to southwest Mexico (Oaxaca). One along the roadside near Janos on 27 July 2003 and another near Madera on 31 July 2003 were the only ones noted for the trip.

Bendire's Thrasher *Toxostoma bendirei bendieri* Permanent resident in the arid southwestern United States to northwestern Mexico (northern Sonora). Few acceptable records from northern Chihuahua, but also recorded from southwestern Chihuahua (?). One was seen near the horse corrals just north of the Hwy 2 cutoff heading toward Janos from the US/Mexico border.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curviróstre césum* Permanent resident from southeastern Arizona, northeastern and southern New Mexico (San Miguel County, Chloride, Sierra Capitan, Guadalupe Mountains), western Texas (Pine Springs, Davis Mountains, Glenn Springs), and extreme western Oklahoma south to central Jalisco and central Guanajuato. Two were near the international border crossing at Palomas, Chihuahua on 27 July 2003 (elevation 4075'); two more at the Hotel Real del Bosque on 30 July 2003.

[Note: *T. c. pálmeri* is a resident from northwestern and central Arizona (Big Sandy River, Kirkland, Big Bug, Safford) to west-central Sonora (Punta Peñascosa, El Plomo; recorded in winter from Bard, California. There has been much recent discussion whether this subspecies merits full species status, but the AOU has not addressed this issue to date.]

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* Introduced into the United States (New York City, 1890); now breeding and resident from south-central British Columbia (casual to Petersburg, southeastern Alaska), across southern Canada south to Baja California, Sonora and northern Sinaloa, northern Chihuahua, northern Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas. Apparently recently established in México City (Howell & Webb 1995). Nearly cosmopolitan. Several seen along the road near Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003.

Phainopepla *Phainopépla nítens lépida* Permanent resident in the arid southwestern United States to Baja California Sur, and northwestern México (Sonora and Chihuahua). Two at the roadside stop on the drive toward Janos on 27 July 2003.

Olive Warbler *Peucedramus taeniátus arizónae* Breeds (partly resident) from central and southeastern Arizona (White and Graham mountains), southwestern New Mexico (Reserve), and northern Coahuila (Sierra del Carmen), south through the mountains to northern Nayarit, northern Jalisco, Zacatecas, and southwestern Tamaulipas. Several observed each day while at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. A high count of 10 (including several juveniles) were located on 30 July 2003 in the forests near the camp at Ejido Cebadillas.

Crescent-chested Warbler *Párula superciliósa sodális* Sierra Madre Occidental of western Mexico, breeding north in Chihuahua to within 30 miles of the U.S. border (Cerro de la Guacamayas). One or two seen or heard from near camp in the forests adjacent to the Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003 were the only ones detected on the trip.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronáta nígrifrons* Sierra Madre Occidental of western Mexico (Chihuahua to Durango). Several seen near camp at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. The males of *D. c. nígrifrons* are more extensively black below and in the face, and are quite striking.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nígréscens hálseii* Northern Baja California, southern Arizona, southern New Mexico, northern Sonora and northwestern Chihuahua along the spine of the Sierra Madre Occidental. One was located in a foraging flock at a roadside stop in pine-oak woodlands at about km 32 (?) on the drive to from Madera to Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003. This was in appropriate breeding habitat, with pine-oak surrounding a riparian habitat of sycamore and cottonwood, typical of breeding habitat in southeastern Arizona.

Grace's Warbler *Dendroica gráciae grácia* Breeds in the mountains from southern Utah (Zion National Park), southwestern Colorado, and central northern New Mexico (Tres Piedras, Mesa Yegua) south to central western, central and southeastern Arizona (Hualpai, Santa Catalina, Santa Rita and Chiricahua mountains), southeastern

Sonora (Mina Abundancia, Rancho Santa Barbara), central western Chihuahua (Bravo, Pinos Altos), southern New Mexico (Pinos Altos Mountains, Sacramento Mountains), and western Texas (Guadalupe Mountains). Several heard singing in the coniferous forests adjacent to our camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 28-30 July 2003.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas chryseola* Breeds, and partly resident, from central and southeastern Arizona (Prescott, White River), south-central and southeastern New Mexico (Socorro, Carlsbad), and western Texas (San Vicente, Del Rio) south to northeastern Sonora and through Chihuahua to Durango (12 miles NE of Durango), and Zacatecas. One was along the edge of the Rio Sirupa at the Puente Huapoca on 28 July 2003.

Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons* (monotypic) Breeds from central Arizona (Oak Creek Canyon) and southwestern New Mexico (Mogollon and Magdalena mountains) south in the Sierra Madre Occidental to at least southwestern Chihuahua (Barranca de Cobre); breeding status farther south uncertain. Several seen each day in the forests surround camp at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. High count of 7 on 30 July 2003.

Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus pictus* Breeds from northwestern and north-central Arizona (Hualpai Mountains), southwestern New Mexico, western Texas, and central Nuevo Leon south through the mountains to Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Veracruz. Several seen each day in the forests surround camp at Ejido Cebadillas 28-30 July 2003. High count of 12 on 30 July 2003.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus miniatus* Mountains of Sierra Madre Occidental in western Mexico (southern Sonora to Guerrero, Oaxaca and western Chiapas). Two were present in the forest above camp at Ejido Cebadillas on 29 July 2003; one singing male near the waterfall below the meadow, and another near there on 30 July 2003.

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava hepatica* Southwestern United States and western Mexico south to Guerrero and Oaxaca. Several seen at roadside stops on the drive to Madera on 27 July 2003; a pair flew across the road a few kilometers south of the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus montanus* Breeds from east-central California, southern and central Nevada, northern Utah, and northwestern and central northern Colorado (Boulder) south to southeastern California, central western and central southern Arizona (Harquahala and Baboquivari mountains), northeastern Sonora (San Jose and San Luis mountains), northwestern Chihuahua (Sierra Madre Occidental south to lat. 29° N.), and central southern and northeastern New Mexico (Mesilla Park, Sierra Grande). Two in the remnant pine forest southwest of Madera on the morning of 28 July 2003. Several more present at several roadside stops, primarily in mixed oak woodland, manzanita woodlands, and along the riparian areas on the drive to and from the Ejido Cebadillas on 28 and 30 July 2003.

Canyon Towhee *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus* Resident from western Arizona (Black and Kofa mountains) east through New Mexico (except Union County in the northeast), south to northern Sonora (lat. 30° N.), northern Chihuahua (lat. 31° N.), and extreme western Texas (El Paso, Guadalupe Mountains). Several on the drive to Madera on 27 July 2003; up to five present in the forest southwest of Madera 27-28 July 2003; several at Puente Huapoca at the Rio Sirupa site on 28 and 30 July 2003.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps eremoeca*

Breeds from se Colorado and northwestern and central Oklahoma south through eastern New Mexico (Carlsbad) and western Texas (Frijole) to central Coahuila (50 miles south of Monclova) and southern Texas (San Antonio). At least six were at the Puente Huapoca site along the Rio Sirupa on 28 and 30 July 2003. We got great views of this species from above as they foraged below us on the ground in the open.

Rusty Sparrow *Aimophila rufescens mcleodii*

Northwest Mexico of eastern Sonora and western Chihuahua to northern Sinaloa and western Durango. Several large *Aimophila* sp. which seemed noticeably larger than *A. ruficeps* were seen darting across the road within rocky hillsides mixed with pine-oak habitat on the way from Madera to the Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003. Habitat seemed similar to where I have seen this species previously in western Mexico, and I feel strongly that it was this species that we saw.

Striped Sparrow *Oriturus superciliosus palliatus* Humid pine-oak forests of western Mexico of the Sierra Madre Occidental from northeastern Sonora south to Nayarit. One pair with a recently fledged young was found in the meadow to the east of Ejido Cebadillas proper, near the waterfall outlet along the road on 29 July 2003. All got to see this elusive species as the adults and the dependent juvenile darted from grass thicket to small shrub and around the tall grasses of the meadow. Exact location was 28° 39.299' N, 108° 17.303' W (8345' elevation).

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina arizonae (boreophila)* Breeds from Washington and Oregon south to southern California, northern Baja California, central western and southeastern Arizona, northeastern Sonora (south to 30° N.), northwestern Chihuahua (Pacheco), and western and central Texas (Chisos Mountains, Kerrville, San Antonio). A flock with some singing individuals was in the cultivated agricultural fields and mixed pine forest to the southwest of Madera on 27-28 July 2003; another flock of 15 was at a roadside stop on the drive to Ejido Cebadillas on 28 July 2003.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus strigatus* Breeds from southwest Canada and the western United States south to northeastern Sonora, Zacatecas, Coahuila (Sierra del Carmen), and southern Texas (Raymondville). Up to five in the cultivated field to the southwest of Madera on 27 July 2003; two more seen there on the morning of 28 July 2003; a small flock of about 5-10 birds located about 15 kms south of Nuevo Casas Grandes in abandoned agricultural fields on 31 July 2003.

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola* Breeds from northeastern California, northern Nevada, northern Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and western Colorado south through desert areas to central Baja California (south to lat. 27° N.), northern Sonora (south to lat. 30° N.), and northwestern Chihuahua (Casas Grandes, Samalayuca). Several seen along the road south of Nuevo Casas Grandes on the way south toward Buenaventura on 27 July 2003 were in appropriate habitat.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (monotypic). Breeds from western Canada and the western United States, wintering south to northern México. At least 8 birds were found during the lunch stop to the south of Janos on 31 July 2003. As expected at this time of the year, some of the males were still in alternate plumage, and were already moving to the south after the breeding season was completed to the north.

Yellow-eyed Junco *Júnco phaeonotus palliatus* Resident in the mountains from southeastern Arizona (Pinal, Santa Catalina and Graham mountains) and extreme southwestern New Mexico (Animas and Big Hatchet mountains) south through northeastern Sonora (San José Mountains), Chihuahua, and Coahuila (Sierra del Carmen, Sierra Encarnación) to southern Durango (El Salto). Common to abundant in all of the coniferous forests of the trip (Madera and Ejido Cebadillas), with a high of about 100 seen daily.

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus sinuatus* Permanent resident from southern New Mexico (Mimbres, Tularosa, Lakewood) and western, central, and southeastern Texas (Kendall County, Colmesneil) south to Michoacán (San Agustín), Querétaro, and southern tamaulipas (Jumave). Two along the road north of Janos on 27 July 2003 were the only ones for the trip.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheúcticus melanocéphalus melanocéphalus* Breeds from southeast British Columbia throughout the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains of the United States south to the southern portions of the Mexican Plateau (Guerrero and Oaxaca). Winters from southern Baja California, southern Sonora, southern Chihuahua, Nuevo León to Oaxaca. Between 5-10 seen daily throughout the trip, primarily in the mid-higher elevations near Madera and on the way to Ejido Cebadillas.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea interfusa* Breeds from southeastern California, southern Nevada, southern and eastern Utah, southern Colorado, central South Dakota, and eastern Nebraska south to northeastern Baja California, northwestern Durango, southern Coahuila, and west-central Texas. Winters from southern Sonora and Sinaloa south along the Pacific coast of México and Central America to northern Costa Rica. Three were in the cultivated fields to the southwest of Madera 27-28 July 2003; up to four were at Puente Huapoca along the Rio Sirupa on 28 and 30 July 2003.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoéna* (monotypic) Breeds from southern British Columbia south to northwest Baja California, central Arizona, northern New Mexico, and western Oklahoma. Winters from southern Baja California and southern Arizona south to Guerrero and central Veracruz. Several were seen along the roadside ditches south of Janos and north of Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003. Several others were seen at the lunch stop south of Janos on 31 July 2003 (near where we had the Lark Buntings).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris pallidior* Breeds from southeastern New Mexico (Carlsbad, Mesilla), central Oklahoma, and central eastern Kansas souther through western and central Texas to southern Chihuahua, southern Coahuila, and southern Texas (Edinburg, Victoria). One male in bright plumage was at Puente Huapoca over the Rio Sirupa on 30 July 2003.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis*

Resident from southeastern California, southern Nevada, central-wester, central, and southeastern Arizona (Fort Mohave, Wikieup, Safford) south to northeastern Baja California (Colorado River Delta), northern Sonora, and northwestern México. Several were seen in the agricultural fields to the east of Janos on 27 July 2003.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta neglecta* Breeds from southeastern British Columbia to northern Baja California, Texas and the Gulf States of the U.S. In the Southwest, breeds from northwestern Sonora, central and southeastern Arizona (Chandler, Safford, Tucson), eastern Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco, northwestern Durango, Guanajuato, southeastern Coahuila, and central Texas (Eagle Pass, Austin).

Four or five were seen on fence posts on the drive to Madera adjacent to agricultural fields on 27 July 2003.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (monotypic) Breeds from southern Canada to northern Baja California and the southern United States; winters to central México. Within México, now is considered to be an uncommon and local breeder only from the northeast portion of Baja California (Howell & Webb). A single adult male was flying over the cultivated fields near Janos on 27 July 2003.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus monsoni* Breeds from southeastern Arizona (Benson), north-central New Mexico, and western Texas (to Brewster County) south into Chihuahua. Uncommon resident along the highways and in the small towns between the border crossing and Madera on 27 and 31 July 2003.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater obscurus* Breeds from northwestern, central and southeastern California (Hoopa, Death Valley), the Colorado River Valley in southern Nevada, extreme southwesten Utah (St. George), north-central and northeastern Arizona, northwestern and central-southern New Mexico (Manuelito, Grant County, Playas Valley, Las Cruces), western and southern Texas (El Paso, Houston), and southern Louisiana south to at least northern Baja California (San Quintín, Colonia), southern Sonora (Guaymas, Álamos), northern Durango, and northern Tamaulipas (Matamoros).

Two were at the restaurant where we ate lunch in Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* Breeds from southeastern California (Colorado River Valley), central and southeastern Arizona (Topock, San Carlos, Safford), and southwestern New Mexico (Silver City) south to northeastern Baja California (eastern base of Sierra San Pedro Mártir, lat. 31° N.) and southern Sonora (Guaymas, Aglabampo). One present at the restaurant in Nuevo Casas Grandes on 27 July 2003; up to five seen in the dry oak scrublands approaching the Rio Sirupa from the Ejido Cebadillas on 30 July 2003; at least three were at the lunch stop along the highway south of Nuevo Casas Grandes on 31 July 2003.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* Breeds (and often resident) in southwestern Canada throughout the western United States to central Baja California, central Sonora, northwestern Chihuahua, and western and south-central Texas. A few present at roadside stops on the drive south to Madera on 27 July 2003; several more present at the residence of the Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo on 28 July 2003.

Red Crossbill *Lóxia curvirostra stricklandi* Resident from northern Baja California (Sierra Juárez, Sierra San Pedro Mártir), southeastern Arizona (Chiricahua Mountains), and southern New Mexico (Reserve) south through the tableland of México to Guerrero, central-western Veracruz, and Chiapas (San Cristóbal; intergrading between *stricklandi* and *mesamericana*). Several fly-overs were seen or heard on both 29 and 30 July 2003 near the camp at Ejido Cebadillas.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus pinus* Breeds in coniferous forests of southern Alaska throughout southern Canada and the western United States (Rocky Mountains and the Pacific mountain ranges) south into northern Sonora and central Chihuahua. *C. p. macrópterus* is considered a resident in northern Baja California (Sierra San Pedro de Mártir) and in the highlands of western and southern México from western Chihuahua south to Michoacán, México (Mt. Popocatepetl), and central-western Veracruz. Zone of overlap (?) not known within Chihuahua. Several heard on the morning of 31 July 2003 while in the canyon near Ejido Grande Cinco Milas.

Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psáltria psáltria* Breeds from south-central United States to southern México (Guerrero, Veracruz, Oaxaca). Fairly common within the lower and middle elevations throughout the trip. High count of ten were at the residence of the Ejido Dominguez-Trujillo on 28 July 2003.

House Sparrow *Páasser domésticus domésticus* Introduced and cosmopolitan throughout southern Canada, the United States, and northern México south to México City and Veracruz. Small flocks were seen in most communities throughout the trip, particularly in Janos, Nuevo Casas Grandes and Madera.

TOTAL SPECIES: 130

Note: all subspecies names and designations were taken from the 1957 *A. O. U. Checklist of North American Birds* (5th edition).

