

First record of California Gull *Larus californicus* from the east coast of Mexico

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Se describe el primer registro de *Larus californicus* para la costa este de México, un joven anillado en California, Estados Unidos, el 5 de julio de 1990, y encontrado vivo en Veracruz, el 15 de noviembre del mismo año. En base a nuevos datos sobre la distribución de la especie en la costa norte del Golfo de México, se propone que *L. californicus* probablemente ocurre con regularidad en los estados de Tamaulipas y Veracruz.

California Gull *Larus californicus* regularly winters in western Mexico, but was apparently unrecorded from the east coast of Mexico² until recently reported from Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas¹. During a study of subspecific identification and distribution of California Gull⁴, a previously unpublished record for the state of Veracruz came to light. It had been banded (USFWS 70509986), as a chick, on 5 July 1990, at a nesting colony at Mono Lake, Mono County, California, USA, and was trapped live, on 15 November 1990, on the Bay of Campeche, at Veracruz, Mexico. This appears to be the first record of California Gull for Veracruz, and on the east coast of Mexico.

I recently established that some populations of California Gull winter on the western Gulf of Mexico coast of the USA⁴, and hence the species probably occurs regularly in winter on the northern Tamaulipas coast. At least 80% of California Gulls recorded on the Gulf coast of the USA are of the north-eastern subspecies *L. c. albertaensis*⁴, and this is probably the more likely subspecies to occur in east Mexico. It is therefore noteworthy that the Veracruz individual was of the southwestern subspecies, *L. c. californicus*, as determined from its banding location³. Characters for the field separation of the two subspecies have been described in detail⁴. Given the relatively southerly location of the Veracruz record, both subspecies could clearly be found on the coasts of Tamaulipas and Veracruz states.

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